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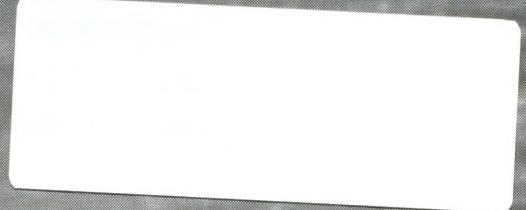
November 21, 1997

ACALANES HIGH SCHOOL

Volume 58, Number 3

BLUEPRINT

The Tidal Wave



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*Boys Polo Takes
Second in NCS*

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Blueprint photo by Ia Hernandez

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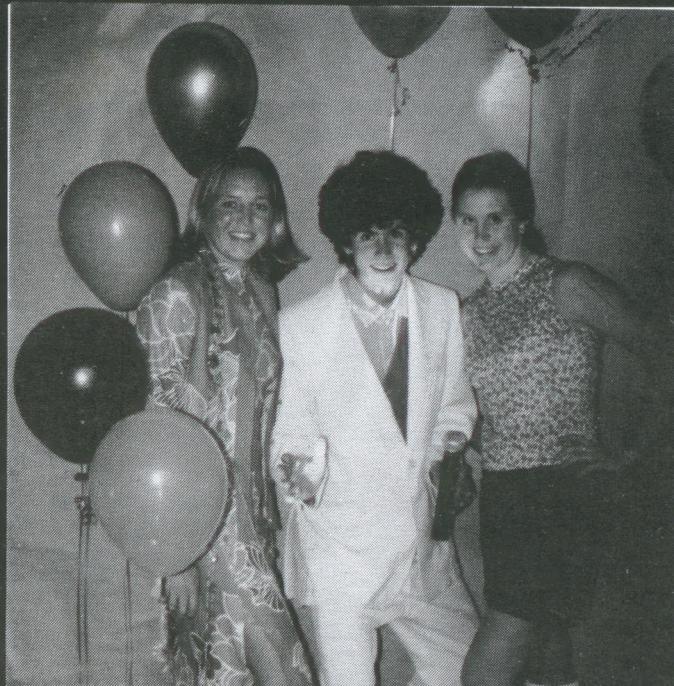
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ON THE COVER: Senior Brad Deal passes the ball in an Acalanes game versus Miramonte.

Photo of the Issue



Seniors Blaire Douglas, Rob Sayegh, and Megan Shuck get down and funky at Acalanes' Disco-Bingo Night.

Blueprint '97-'98

Editors in Chief

Julie Greene
Anne Kim
Bret Taylor

News Editor

Vanessa Totten

Feature Editor

Rand Dadasovich

Opinion Editor

David Drevno

Entertainment Editor

Bret Taylor

Sports Editor

Ben Conley

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Sim Peyron

Photographers

Ia Hernandez
Rachel Messer
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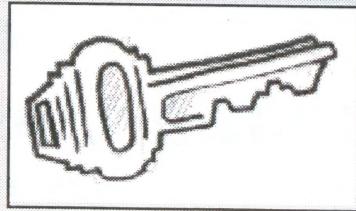
Acalanes Blueprint
1200 Pleasant Hill Rd.
Lafayette, CA 94549

Tel: (510) 935-2600 ext. 127

A CALANES BLUEPRINT NEWS

Blueprint

INSIDE



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AP TESTS

District Reports Higher AP Scores

By Mina Chang

Staff Writer

Acalanes Union High School District students' scores on the Advanced Placement (AP) exams offered by the College Board as well as overall participation in the AP classes has increased significantly over the past few years.

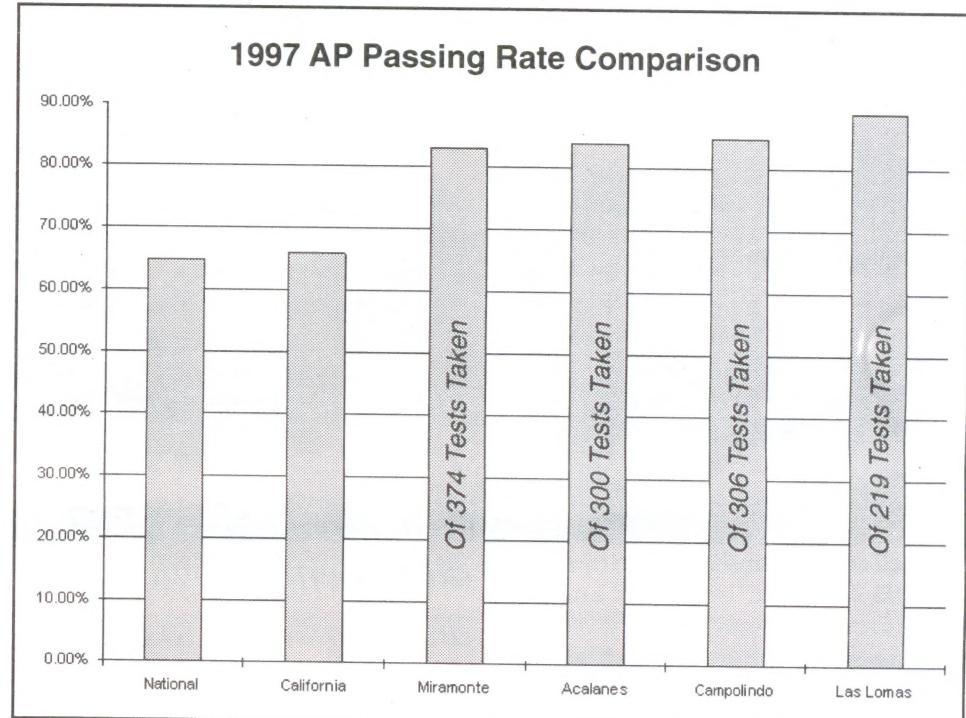
The average AP test scores achieved by the Acalanes District students has proven to be superior to both the national average as well as the state average.

Based on the 5-point grade scale (5 = high, 1 = low), the graph represents the percentage of each student who scored 3 or higher on last year's AP examination in each category.

While the state and the national average scores were at 65.9% and 64.7% passing-rate, Acalanes District schools had an 85.3% average passing-rate. Compared to just six years ago, there has been a 6% increase of students who received a 3 or better on their AP exam.

"The universities and colleges are telling us that if a student enrolls in an AP course, (the colleges) expect to see the result of the AP test when they're considering the admitting (students). They don't want students to take the AP course only because it's a way to inflate your GPA in some situations. They want you to take the test also," advised the head counselor Bob Gangi.

Two hundred eleven Acalanes students participated in the AP program during the 96-97 school year, contrasted to 128 students the year before. The numbers of students taking the



test at Los Lomas, Campolindo, and Miramonte also increased from 102 to 142, from 130 to 166, and from 164 to 192 respectively.

Most of the students who have decided to take at least one AP course this year complained about the amount of time they have to spend and the effort they must put into these classes. "The majority of the homework that I have this year is from my AP class. If I didn't have an AP class, I'd have more time on my hands," said sophomore Michelle Chun.

"It's very stressful," commented sophomore Jessica Reid who's currently taking AP European History.

"It certainly looks good on college application," said the AP European History teacher Ramsay Thomas. Students who challenge themselves by taking AP courses are "ready to take

the advantage of college" rather than "getting ready in the first one or two years after actually getting into the college," added Thomas.

AP US History teacher Larry Freeman agrees that AP classes provide a much higher, more developmental, more sophisticated, faster moving curriculum with greater intensity than regular classes. He said, however, that the real merit for AP is not in inflated GPA or enhanced admissions status. "It's the educational value and not the fringe benefits that are important. I don't know if there are enough students and parents feel that way."

According to the College Board, AP candidates are held higher standards in their secondary school AP course work than college students are in comparable courses at most colleges.

COLLEGE COSTS

Growing Cost of Higher Education

Tuition Not the Only Worry Among College-Bound Students

By Elizabeth Johnson

Staff Writer

SAT preparation and essay writing courses, college tours back east, and private college counselors take a serious financial toll ranging from anywhere between \$40 to \$4,000.

Many underclassmen and their parents are unaware of staggering pre-admission costs. "Not a lot of people really know the reality of [college addmission]," said sophomore Renee Harris. Private help on application essays, as well as general tutoring costs \$45 per hour. College tours back east average around \$2000. One private college counselor has a set fee charges \$100 per session. Advisory books put out by Kaplan and The Princeton review range from \$15 to \$30. In addition to an application fee of \$40 to \$60 sent out to several colleges. SAT classes cost around \$500, with Ames at \$495 for eight two hour and fifteen minute classes, and Ivy West at \$695 for fifteen hours of private tutoring.

Some SAT classes guarantee satisfaction. One Princeton Review add states " we guarantee a 100 point increase." Ames Seminars offers private tutoring and additional classes free of charge until the student earns a satisfactory score. Ames "will help kids until they run out of time," said owner Bill Ames.

However, raising SAT scores with such costly classes places the emphasis more on how much money one is willing to put into the process, leading junior Michael Pessis to ask "If you attached a \$20 bill to the SAT form, would you get a higher grade?"

College tours over spring break junior year, or during early fall senior year are often components of a college search. Senior Laura Anderson looked a colleges back east with her mom over spring break last

year: "I looked at so many colleges... Vassar, Wesleyan, Tufts, Columbia, Middlebury, Amherst, about seven."

Her trip was a week long. "I visited my cousin in New York City for a couple of days, which was pretty much recreation, but the rest of it was pretty intense college looking, every day." Staying with friends for three of the seven nights, they spent \$60 to \$70 on hotel rooms, and \$50 on food for the four remaining nights. Airfare was \$400 each, and the rental car was \$350.

"It's expensive to fly out there,

"The culture of going to college is economically skewed... I believe that all students should have an opportunity to do their very best."

-Nancy Colbert

but it's an important decision," she said. The visit served as a deciding factor in her decision making process: she will be applying early admission to Vassar.

College visits allow applicants to "appear more favorably in the eyes of an admission officer, because [students familiar with the college] know how they will fit in to the university, and how it will meet their needs. Students who are unable to visit, can explore many campuses through the internet said Gangi. However, college brochures stress the value of a campus visit in acquainting oneself to the institution.

Expensive classes that heighten chances of admission would seem to

undermine the economic leveling effect of need blind admissions, which promise financial aid to anyone who qualifies for admission. The UC handbook states: "The University wants every student it admits to be able to attend regardless of his or her economic background."

Many of these courses offer scholarships to level the financial inequity. "We do offer a few scholarships per year, usually given on the recommendation of a school counselor," said Ivy West Associate director Lauren Pachkowski. Ames seminars "has always offered scholarships," said owner Bill Ames.

Private college counselor Nancy Colbert sees students from all economic backgrounds "I have a sliding scale of what my fee is, and . . . I also do quite a bit of pro bono work. . . I've worked with a group of kids from Oakland inner city schools for probably the last five years. . . I feel like I have a commitment to help families and students who couldn't normally pay for my services."

Even so, many of their clients come from more affluent areas, such as Lafayette. Ivy West, which serves the entire bay area, counts Acalanes as "one of the larger schools for us." Serving a total of 800 students, from Novato to Santa Cruz and from the coast to the 680 corridor, from October to November of this year, thirty two were from Acalanes.

Colbert's clients do not represent an even economic distribution either. "Acalanes is a college preparatory school. . . that's the culture at that school, [at] some of the schools that's not the culture at all. The culture of going to college is economically skewed... which is why I do do this outreach because I believe that all students should have an opportunity to do their very best," she said.

AHS CONSTITUTION

Proposed Amending of Constitution

Controversy Over Proposed Changes Delays Final Decision

By Julie Zorn

Copy Editor

The Acalanes Leadership class is planning to amend the Acalanes High School Constitution to make changes that are long overdue since the last adjustment in June of 1995.

Rod Keillor, advisor for Leadership, approached District Representative to the School Board, senior Bret Taylor, and asked him to revise the existing constitution, which applies only to the Leadership class. " (Keillor) asked if I wanted any help, but I said that I would present my proposal to the class to have them vote on it," said Taylor.

The class still has to vote on these measures. "I expect all the proposals to pass," said Taylor.

The problem that ignited the need to make changes is that cheerleaders are not allowed to hold Leadership positions because they are already considered members of Leadership, but they are not given credits for the class and do not attend the morning meetings. "We have all the restrictions of a Leadership position, but we don't get any of the benefits," said cheerleader Lisa Gimbel.

The new proposal could allow all cheerleaders to run for office except for captains, who are already hold a position in Leadership, get credits for the class, and attend the morning meetings.

Some controversy has arisen, as some cheerleaders would prefer to attend leadership meetings, which is how the constitution currently defines their role. "Cheerleaders are not recognized as Leadership officers or as a sport...It would be nice if cheerleaders were given some sort of recognition for what they do," said Captain Allison Lewis.

Some feel that the cheerleader's requests are unreasonable. "Letting 20 cheerleaders into the Leadership class would make a severe imbalance in the class. They want to be in Leadership

and run for office. You cannot have your cake and eat it too," said Taylor.

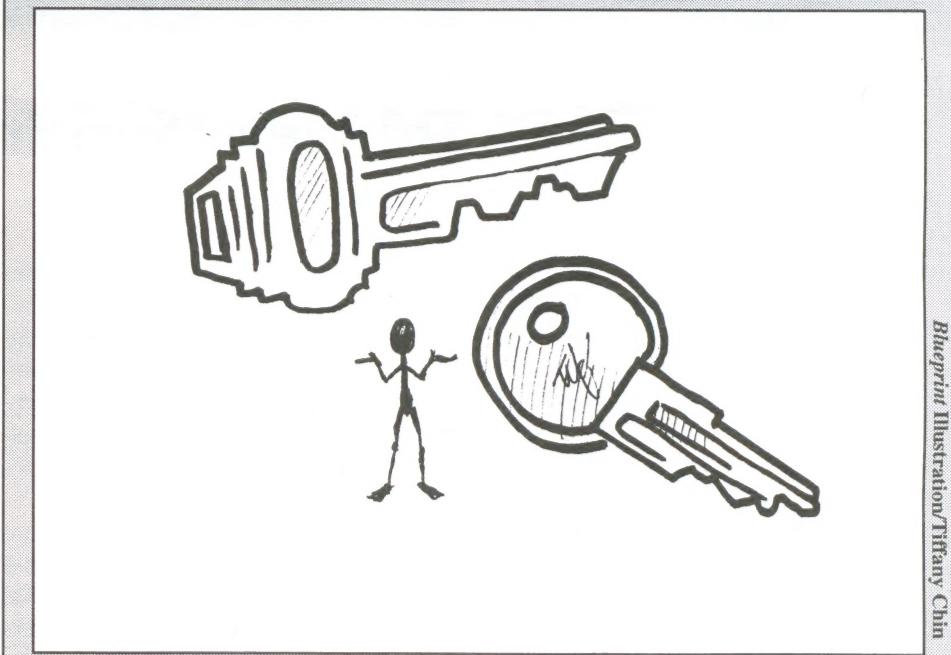
The ASB has not reached a conclusion yet, but there are plans to discuss the problem during an executive meeting this week.

Other problems are addressed in the proposal, including the definitions of certain positions in Leadership. A non-existent "Programs Chair Person" would be eliminated from the Constitution. If the proposal passes, the positions for District Board Representative and TOYS Representative will be included in the constitution. The last position being tampered with is the His-

torian. The non-existent power of the Historian to select a student of the month is proposed to be eliminated.

Another proposal is to abolish the Executive Board and Class Council described in the old constitution. Neither board is used and therefore does not need to be listed. However, the problem with getting rid of the Class Council is that the constitution cannot be amended unless it is accepted by that group. Since there is not a Class Council, leadership had to create a Class Council to pass the amendments, including the elimination of the Class Council itself.

CARTOONBRIEF



Blueprint Illustration/Tiffany Chin

A ring of keys which opened many locks at Acalanes was stolen or misplaced on Thursday, November 6. To make sure that no locks were compromised, the administration started replacing locks twenty-four hours after the keys were reported missing. Over the weekend, there was a twenty-four hour watch placed on the school as a precaution while the locksmith was busy changing locks.

Although the administration has worried extensively over the loss of the keys, some locks which were to be replaced were not. "We were issued keys that did not correspond to our locks...so the following morning I came in, my new key didn't work, Miss Haire's key didn't work, Mrs. Schumacher's key didn't work...now we are back on track but we still haven't been re-keyed" said Gov/Econ teacher Mike McAlister.

NUGGETS

NEWSBRIEF

AHS Pursues Blue Ribbon

By Christine Lin
Staff Writer

After being designated a Distinguished School in 1996, Acalanes High School is one of about five hundred schools in the nation that has been invited to apply for the National Blue Ribbon Honor.

In 1992, Acalanes applied for the honor, but failed to receive it.

The Blue Ribbon School Program recognizes schools across the nation that model "excellence." The application offers the following definition of a Blue Ribbon School: "Blue Ribbon Schools offer instructional programs that meet the highest academic standards, have supportive and learning-centered school environments and demonstrate student outcome results that are significantly above the average for comparable schools."

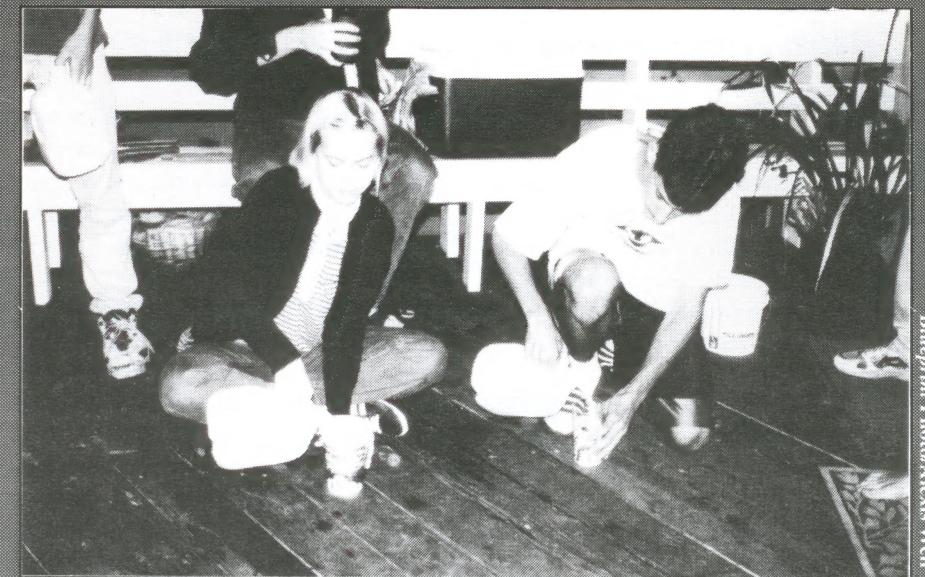
The award is nice to have when applying for certain grants. Schmidt said that the Blue Ribbon Honor helps students transcripts because the colleges see that you come from a school that is nationally recognized.

"I think that Acalanes is a really good school...and I'd like to see it be recognized for it...the Distinguish Schools program seem to agree," said Schmidt with confidence, "we just hope they will agree with us."

Eight schools were nominated in Contra Costa County. Orinda Intermediate, California High, San Ramon Valley High, Park Junior High, Martinez Junior High, Oak Grove Middle and of course Acalanes High. Miramonte High previously has been a Blue Ribbon school.

"I knew Acalanes had a really high standards, and being able to apply for this award is even a higher boost of encouragement for teachers and students," commented sophomore Lisa Smithey.

PHOTOBRIEF



Blueprint Photo/Alexis Weir

Young life hosted a unique get-together at the home of member Chris Meyer on November 11. Participants had to drink a gallon of milk in one hour, and hold it down for an additional five minutes. Those who could perform the feat would have received \$100, but nobody succeeded.

NEWSBRIEF

Ribbons Pinpoint Drug Awareness

By Hannah Hens-Piazza
Staff Writer

Although many Acalanes students externally supported Red Ribbon Week by wearing ribbons, the real effect that the drug-free campaign had on students is not clear.

The week of Oct. 17 consisted of lunchtime presentations and brochures in an effort to show the real life effects that drugs and alcohol can have on people.

Acalanes students did much of the planning for Red Ribbon Week, making signs, handing out red ribbons and cheesecake, and planning guest speakers. The speakers were drug abuse victims from Kaiser who told their stories to students in an attempt to show first hand the results of drug use.

Student Body President Meredith Galer hoped that the work put into Red Ribbon Week would serve to teach students the lasting effects of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. "[Students] forget that drugs are dangerous," she said. Galer hoped that Red Ribbon Week could be an "eye-opener" for those uneducated students.

Linda Mara, the parent coordinator for Youth Educators as well as Red Ribbon

Week, felt similarly. Mara said that "peer to peer is very effective" in teaching the truth behind drug abuse, instead of teachers preaching to students.

Despite the efforts of the ASB, some students were not impressed with Red Ribbon Week. Many students felt that Red Ribbon Week was not sufficiently publicized. Sophomore Sabrina Gaber said that "not enough people got involved" due to the lack of publicity. Gaber hopes that in the future, guest speakers will be presented at a mandatory assembly, so that all students have the opportunity to hear them.

Senior Sarah Harris was disappointed that she never received a ribbon and did not hear of the lunchtime presentations. "There was good stuff going on, but nobody knew about it," she said.

In the future, both Galer and Mara hope to make the speeches mandatory for students, allowing students to choose the presentations they would like to attend. Galer also hopes that everyone will wear a ribbon next year, and she supports the continuation of Red Ribbon Week as a positive way of educating high school students.

NEWSBRIEF

Junior Deck Closed Down

Hannah Hens-Piazza**Staff Writer**

The administration plans to end the milk-bombing problem by enforcing stricter punishments on offenders.

In an effort to curb the milking incidents, the administration temporarily closed the library deck from Nov. 5 to Nov 17 due to incidents of "milking" by the students.

Administrators gave the students a warning to end the onslaught after seniors were caught "milking"—which consists of lobbing cartons of milk at the ground—towards the 100's hall. The milking stopped for about a week, but one more incident occurred, and as a result all students were removed from the deck.

Paul Mack, one of Acalanes' assistant principals, said that he felt the administration gave the seniors a fair agreement by warning them, but the students failed to comply. Mack said he "would like the seniors to be able to sit on the deck and act responsibly and act like seniors."

In an effort to crack down on this practice students caught throwing milk will be given a two and a half day suspension. The punishment will increase if a student is caught again.

Mack said that if he catches anyone violating the rule, he will enforce the consequences. Mack said that he hopes the deck will be able to be used in a more mature manner, and the deck will most likely remain a "senior deck."

The deck was closed once again on Tuesday, Nov. 18 for an unspecified amount of time.

MEASURE A

Measure A Earns an "A"

By Vanessa Totten**News Editor**

Measure A, a bond measure that will provide Acalanes with approximately \$13 million, passed during the November fourth election with a majority of approximately 78 %.

Acalanes parent Susan Thum is a dedicated Measure A volunteer. She has been working on the campaign since last spring, and will continue to work on the campaign by coordinating volunteers to write thank you notes. She said that her experiences with student volunteers was "overwhelmingly positive....(they) were great". According to Thum, one "no" voter changed his mind after a conversation with a student volunteer. The voter was so impressed with the students knowledge of the measure, that he called the campaign office to congratulate the student.

One involved student volunteer, senior Alex Gaber, was at the campaign office "almost everyday." He donated his time as the Student Campaign Coordinator after hearing a presentation Thum gave in the Leadership class. She

gave similar presentations to all of Mike McAlister's and Mary Carmichael's government/econ classes. Both teachers debated Measure A in their classes, and actively participated in the campaign. Thum said she wished, in the future, the U.S. History and World History classes could also become "part of the program" because she feels that it would benefit the student's education.

On election day, before the results were in, School Board member and Measure A campaigner Elizabeth Rudnick was not as confident the measure would pass as the end result indicated. "There is a really low turnout to vote. We need out Yes voters to get to the poles," said Rudnick.

To help encourage "Yes" voters to get to the polls, volunteers, including students from the district schools, phoned all of the voters who had not voted. Students were not only involved in this aspect of the campaign, but helped with mailing and delivering flyers to private homes. Students also participated in the neighborhood door-to-door support drive the week previous to the election.

NEWSBRIEF

Whole Week to Digest

By Christine Lin**Staff Writer**

Thanksgiving vacation has gained a three day extension in an effort to use teacher in-service days more effectively, said Principal Keith Schmidt.

There was talk last year among the teachers that teacher in-service days should be placed back to back. Therefore, the administration sought a place to put these back-to-back days. Thanksgiving week is reported as the most traveled holiday so the administration decided that Thanksgiving week would be a good place to put the two days.

The outcome is a week off for students for Thanksgiving. "I think

that it is a real good idea because people are always missing school. Since Thanksgiving is a really good family holiday, I think that it is really smart to just have a week off," commented sophomore Melissa Barker. Freshman Ami Paetzold also liked the idea of a week off. "It's really good because we haven't gotten many breaks since the beginning of school, and I can really use the whole week off to get organized and get my life back together."

However senior Babs Lake, would have preferred to have the in-service day's spread out throughout the school year. "I dislike (the week holiday) because I'd rather have more three-day weekends," she said.

SAT REQUIREMENT

Optional SAT's in California Universities

Possibility of Making SAT's Optional Sparks Debate

Andy Fitzgerrell

Staff Writer

The idea of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) becoming an option for admissions to any UC campus may become a reality in the near future according to reports by the Princeton Review.

There is great controversy over whether or not the SAT should be made optional between members of the UC system and the Princeton Review. The test decides whether or not many qualified students will get into the school of their choice.

The SAT is a test of one's ability to reason in both writing and math. It is also the cause of many sleepless nights for juniors who pull "all-nighters" studying for the test. There are several other tests of this kind, including the ACT.

The Princeton Review, the nation's largest SAT preparation company, is heavily in favor of the SAT being made optional for applicants, although it appears that if the SAT becomes optional, it would drastically effect the program's business.

According to a fax from a recent conference, President and founder of The Princeton Review John Katzman called the optional SAT "a wonderful idea," and that "we've maintained since our inception that the SAT is a horrible test which makes a mockery of the notion of a level playing field for all ethnic groups."

According to Director of Admissions Gary Tudor from UC Davis, no final decisions have been made at this time, and "if changes occur to university admissions requirements, it is normal to alert students and counselors at least four years prior to implementation."

Tudor said that this has "no impact on fall 1998 admissions selections processes at any of the UC campuses." He said that a process of this magnitude "requires a great deal of consultation

with faculty and administrative groups...so this is probably an issue that will take some extended time to decide."

The UC faculty is split over this issue. Some feel the optional SAT would be beneficial because it would make admissions based solely upon grades and the written essay, and not on how well someone took a test on one Saturday morning.

The other faction of the faculty feels that it would deny many kids the opportunity to get into the schools that they are smart enough to succeed in. "Some students get off to a slow start," said counselor Bob Gangi and that they improve their grades as they progress. These kids might not be able to get into the schools that they are smart enough to get into because they didn't do as well in the earlier years of high school, said Gangi.

Others, whose SAT scores would be needed in order for them to get into the school that best focuses on their intended major, would be denied this chance because they didn't have the average GPA that was required.

When the UC Davis representative visited Acalanes, she expressed similar opinions about the possibility of the SAT becoming optional, but said that the SAT scores were not going to be weighted as heavily for '98 admissions as they used to be. There will no longer be quite as much emphasis on the high SAT scores, and there will be more emphasis on the strong GPA.

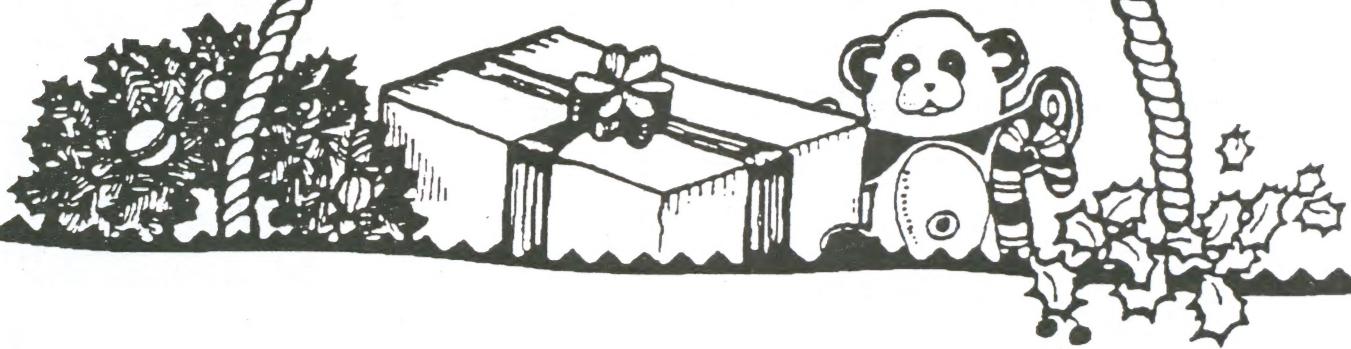
Many of the students at Acalanes feel that it is unfair to lessen the value of something that is key to getting into the best school possible, said senior Eduardo Galeano. "If this passes, some kids won't be able to get into the UC that they applied to because their scores wouldn't be as important anymore."

Other students felt that this would streamline the students who didn't do all of the work for all four years. It would keep people who slacked from getting the places that can be filled by others who worked harder. Senior Anuj Chibber felt that, "the SAT test is a biased test because there are many ways to cheat so that you can raise your score."

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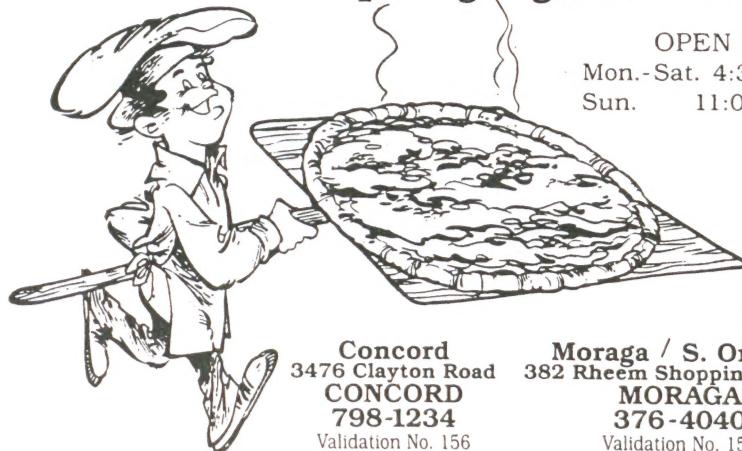
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INSIDE



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BODY-PIERCING

New Law Plugs Holes in Teen Piercing

By Rand Dadasovich

Feature Editor

The rings, studs, chains, links, cuffs, and other paraphernalia used in the decoration of various body parts, common fashion fads among teens today, may be on the way out.

No, its not another wave of "what's hot and what's not" in the land of trends, but California decided to plug the holes in the body piercing industry.

Assembly Bill 99, signed by Governor Wilson on October 7 and going into effect in January, makes it an infraction to "perform or offer to perform body piercing upon a person under the age of 18 years, unless the body piercing is performed in the presence of, or as directed by a notarized writing by, the person's parent or guardian." The piercer could face a maximum fine of \$250 for this infraction.

Spokesperson for Govenor, Steve Tatum, said that Wilson signed the bill to establish "standards (that) will protect consumers and workers" in the piercing industry.

According to the bill, body piercing is defined as "the creation of an opening of a human being for the purpose of inserting jewelry or other decoration." This includes, but is not limited to, pierces of the lip, tongue, nose, or eyebrow. Ears are exempt because they are not considered "body pierces."

The author of the bill, Assemblyman George Runner, said that he was first inspired to write a law after an angry parent complained to him that there were no standards to regulate body piercing. "Originally (the idea) came to me from a parent who's 13 year-old daughter had her naval

pierced. It was very surprising to them that someone could be sticking needles in their child without parental consent," said Runner.

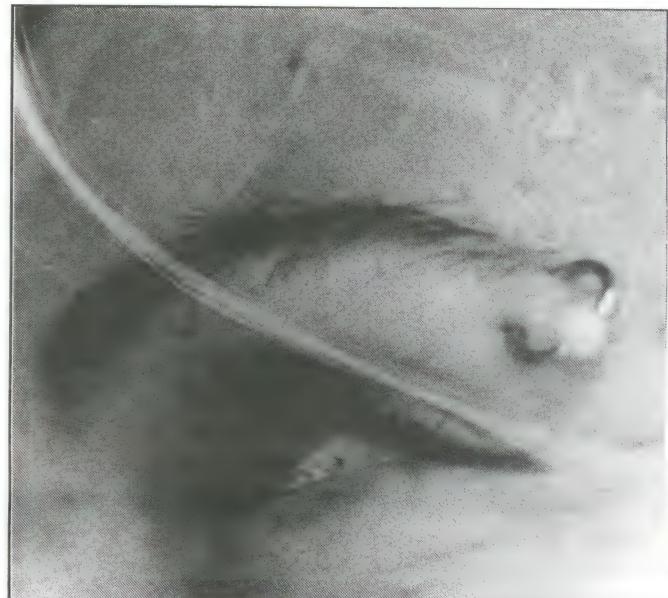
While this law will force all piercing shops to deny service to minors without parental permission, many "professional places" already include this stipulation in their policies, said senior Julie Honneger. When she got her nose pierced last month at Zebra in Berkeley, she "was required to have copies of my parents' drivers licenses and a note giving their permission."

"We require that (the minor) come in with a parent or bring a notarized note," said Zebra employee Moe Delfani.

However, when junior Heather Craig got her tongue pierced six weeks ago at Zebra, she said their policy was not strictly enforced. "They asked me for an ID, but when I told them I didn't have one they didn't really argue."

Honneger suggested that some store's policies may not even go far enough. "I suppose it would be possible (to get pierced) if you could do a pretty decent forgery of your parent's signature and somehow get access to their driver's license."

Diversity in Walnut Creek has a policy similar to Zebra's, but requires a number where the parents can be



Junior Elizabeth Hill displays her pierced eyebrow ring which has become a rising trend among teenagers.

reached at the time the minor comes in to the store.

The law comes as an addition to a section of the California State Penal Code which makes it a misdemeanor to tattoo minors without parental permission. While the new law tries to curb teen piercings, only the piercing businesses can be punished, not the minor or his or her parents.

Honneger said that while the law does make stores legally responsible, she thinks that minors will still find ways to get pierced. "You could still get it done despite this law. People do it on the street...It's still going to happen, anyway."

"The Governor feels given the possible health and safety risks associated with body piercing, parents should be involved in this decision," Tatum said.

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HUMANITIES

AHS Night Courses Spark Student Interest

By Chris Kinney

Staff Writer

To attend or not to attend a Shakespeare program, that is the question that 15 Acalanes students have said "yes" to.

The Acalanes Shakespeare Company, an LASF sponsored and funded class, meets Monday nights from 7 to 9 p.m. to discuss and to act out Shakespeare's plays. "It was designed to get kids who are not in Drama more opportunity to perform or kids who are in Drama more opportunity to perform," said Susan Thum, V.P. of LASF and Acalanes parent.

Thum learned about the program when working with LASF two years ago. "It's a really neat program and I thought it would be a great adjunct to our drama program, since they do not do Shakespeare," said Thum.

"We learn how to read Shakespeare and how to act it," said sophomore Jessica Potts.

Matt Van Etten, a senior at Acalanes, was in the program last year when one of the male actors dropped out for personal reasons. Van Etten took the actors place in the play, which the ASC put on in May. Van Etten said that he thought the program was "really fun".

This year, the ASC is performing *Anthony and Cleopatra*. More than likely, they will perform it on the stage of The Town Hall, sometime in March. The class is taught by Josh Costello, who is from the California Shakespeare Festival, and teaches in their youth program. "It excites me to see people who have never been exposed to Shakespeare before interested," he said. Costello went to Boston University and began to get into Shakespeare, then came out to California and joined the CSF.

Thum has enjoyed this program very much. Her children have had a good experience with the California Shakespeare Festival. "I think it's fantastic, because the kids learn a little Elizabethan History, they learn a little combat, they learn Scansion, which is what it's called when you learn how to speak Shakespeare," said Thum.

The students who are in it are enjoying it very much. "I think it's a good idea, because there is not any Shakespeare at the school, and it gives kids a chance to do more Drama," said Nicole Korpell.

* * *

What is the meaning of life?

That is just one of the questions that the members of the Humanitarian group try to answer weekly. The group consists of about 40 people, and is on a walk-in basis.

Susan Thum, the Vice President of LASF, helped start this group. "We decided to do a lecture series, combined of philosophy and history," said Thum. The class is taught by Bill Garlington, a former Head Royce teacher, every Wednesday night. "We wanted somebody with a background in philosophy who had taught philosophy to secondary age students, not a college professor."

"I'm very excited by it," said Garlington. He is very impressed by the general level of discussion in the class. "I'm really not interested in giving information to people but having them think about what they've seen," said Garlington.

The class is run like a Socratic Seminar. Everyone participates and there is no real presence of authority. The discussion leader, Garlington, asks a question, and then the students control the class. There is no interruption, like in a college discussion.

The students who are in the class enjoy it, and more people are coming every week.

Senior Joyce Lin said "I was actually really impressed [with the turn-



Bill Garlington directs a Humanities Lecture to Acalanes students during a night session.

Blueprint Photo/Ja Hernandez

out]". The class is in its fifth week. The first week, there was a very small turnout, because most people were unaware of its existence. The next week, there were about 30 people, and by the time the third week rolled around, there were at least 40 people.

Junior Lindsey Lieberman feels that "It is a really good experience and it lets people see things from a different perspective."

The group talks about philosophical questions such as what defines existence, what is reality, what is right or wrong, what is obedience and disobedience. Sometimes the group hosts a guest speaker, who talks about other issues. During the group's third week, they had an actor come in and talk about violence in Shakespeare. Then, in their fourth week, the group did a follow up on the guest speaker by talking about what defines violence in today's society.

Joyce Lin feels that it is a place where one is exposed to topics that "You won't get in an English class."

NEW TEACHERS

New Teachers Add Flavor to Acalanes

By Andria Flakoll

Staff Writer

Sallie McOwen

Southern Belle turned California girl, Sallie McOwen joined the staff of AHS teachers this fall after her recent move from Virginia, with a slight southern accent to prove it.

McOwen was a hard-working student in high school but studying didn't keep her from participating on the drill team, cheerleading squad, student government, and acting in the production of *Our Town*.

Spring break is a time for fun in the sun, and for McOwen, spring break meant two words: Key West. For one week, McOwen lived it up tanning on white-sanded beaches and bogeying down in hip clubs. But as all good things must come to an end, McOwen traveled back to William and Mary College where she majored in international studies, and minored in sorority life.

As a foreign language teacher, she studied abroad in Spain, parts of Europe, and Guatemala before she started teaching in 1991. She strives to teach her Spanish students the art of communicating effectively in order to survive in a foreign country.



Sallie McOwen spends her time at AHS teaching Spanish 2 and 3.

Even though she heard good things about Acalanes, she still felt the night-before-school jitters. "People have this stereotype of Californians with spiked hair all over their heads, and piercings on a million different parts of their bodies. The night before school, I was mostly anxious to see what my class was like," said McOwen.

McOwen loves Acalanes and hopes she can stay here as long as possible. However, her students need to remember not to "hang off the rafters" too much. McOwen's teaching nightmare happens to be an out of control class.

Lyenne Denny

When Lyenne Denny started teaching at AHS this fall she remembered the words of her mentor Maya Angelou, who said that life's struggles build character.

Denny is the type of person who participates in a million different things and does amazingly well in all of them. At Norco High School in Riverside County, she participated in student government and was student body president her senior year. Her main extracurricular focuses were soccer and dance, but on the side she was a song leader for a year, ran track, and played volleyball and tennis.

With all that in the mix, Denny was still an excellent student loved by all her teachers. However, they didn't always appreciate the time she spent out of class. Denny disagrees and strongly supports activities apart from school work. "I especially encourage my ninth graders to get involved in as many things as they can," said Denny.

After high school Denny went to UC Berkeley as a political science major and then St. Mary's for her teaching credentials. Prior to Acalanes, she taught at St. Joseph's in Pinole. Denny tries to relate to her students by listening to the same music (alternative) and watching the same shows (*Party of Five*). "I feel if you know your students outside the classroom you're a better teacher inside," she said.



Lyenne Denny teaches World History, English 2, and Dance at Acalanes.

Elizabeth Gough

For Elizabeth Gough, teaching in the high school she once attended was an atrocious thought, but that's where she ended up this fall.

As she watched the classes duel it out at this year's Homecoming skit competition, she was reminded of her own senior skit in '87 in which she appeared as Sandy in a medley of Grease hits. "That was the first time dancing had ever been involved in the skits, and we just blew everyone away with about 150 girls and guys in this big show," reminisced Gough.

As a member of the AHS swim team during high school, she developed an avid interest later to teach swimming, and on the first day of school it came as a shock to see, among others, sophomore Conner Deal, a former swim student.

Gough returned to Acalanes but not before many years abroad. She lived in Spain and Venezuela, got her degree at Amherst College, and taught in Santa Barbara, Massachusetts, and Caracas.

Ironically Gough studied French in high school and earned the foreign language award but switched to Spanish in college because it's more widely used in the U.S.

Gough's former teachers Tom Eggertson, Larry Freeman, Rich Klier, Wendy Dunstan, and Stan Oberg are now her colleagues. So after the rapid role reversal, Gough is once again making AHS her home.

FEATURE FOCUS

School Climate Survey Reveals Turbulence

Faculty Feel Supported by Administration; Students Feel Actions Inconsistent

By Rand Dadasovich and
Jennie Saulsbury

Feature Editor and Staff Writer

"Dirty hippie, take a shower!" "We're going to smash you!" "Shave your legs!" "What's that smell? Oh, it's just that dirty hippie."

Phrases like these were just some of the "greetings" recent AHS graduate "Susan" was subjected to by fellow students on a daily basis, raising, at least in her mind, concerns about tolerance and discipline at Acalanes.

While some students come to school to learn reading, writing, and arithmetic, some others experience a different version of the three R's: ridicule, rejection, and rudeness. A recent survey of students and faculty indicates disagreement concerning the climate control problem at Acalanes, specifically whether it is an issue that is being handled adequately by the school or if it's one which may be impossible to handle.

Susan, who now attends school a UC school, says she suffered constant harassment which she alleges was never taken seriously by the administration. "I would walk by in the halls and (students) would throw bread, open milk cartons, and carrots. When they walked by me in the halls, certain students would always make sure to

spit where I would take a step." While her case borders on the extreme, the results of surveys given to faculty and students indicate the problem is widespread.

Of those who responded to the surveys, 92% of the faculty and 73% of the students believe discrimination, including racism, sexism, and homophobia, are "frequent" or "occasional" problems on campus.

"I question whether our policies are too lax or if the students don't really care one way or another. If we toughen up the policies, will it make any difference?"

-Faculty Member

"It's hard," said a junior who will be referred to as Simon. "When you get picked on and called names whenever you walk past a certain group in the halls or try to stand up for yourself. When nothing ever gets done about it and those kids are allowed to continue what they're doing, it makes you wonder if the reasons behind the decline of

society today are really such a mystery."

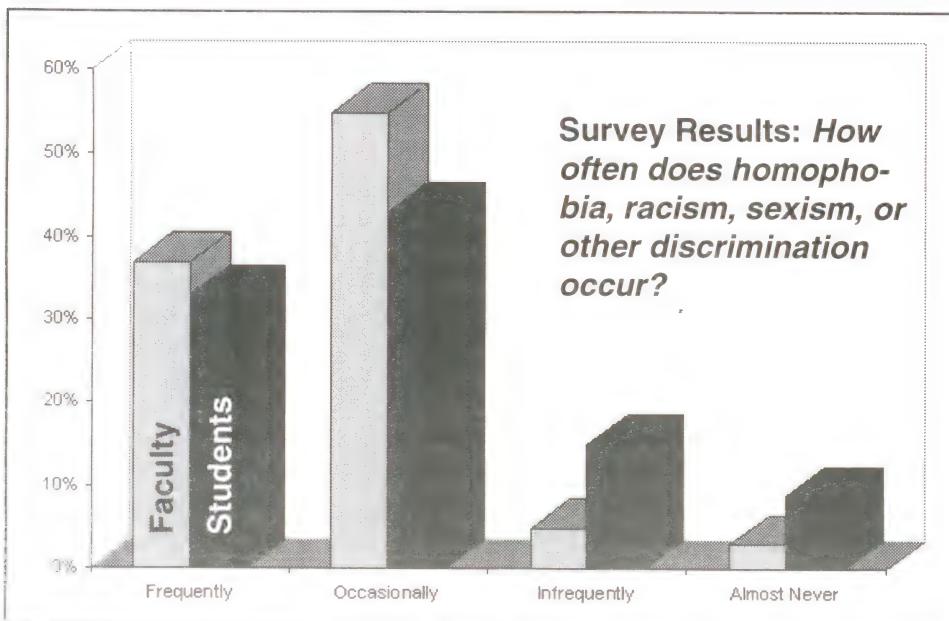
One teacher, who requested anonymity and who will be called Joan, said these problems are a visible aspect of the Acalanes atmosphere. "Disrespect towards others...I've noticed that just in the way people treat each other in the hallways, and some students treat each other in class," she said. She feels that one of the reasons why the school might have trouble enforcing the rules could be due to a lack of consistency in punishment policies. "I think if the faculty say that if you do X than Y will happen, then Y needs to happen. I don't think Y necessarily happens all the time," she said.

Though the faculty surveys show teachers feel strong support for the administrators' actions, the student surveys indicate that 73% believe that the administration is not consistent in its enforcement of school rules. Three percent declined to answer.

Though the harassment Susan says she suffered could be considered grounds for suspension or expulsion under the rules stated in the student handbook, she alleges that nothing was ever done. "They always tried to resolve it as a psychological issue with me. One administrator once told me '(Susan), I can't protect you everywhere. I can't be with you on the streets of Oakland.' That's ridiculous because school should be a safe place. There shouldn't be this hostile environment," she said.

In fact, the results of the student survey indicate not all students feel Acalanes is a safe environment. Almost 25% of the students felt that harassment is a problem that is not "handled and recognized by the administrators."

Though he said he could not comment on any particular case, Acalanes Principal Keith Schmidt felt that it wasn't inconsistency but a lack of communication that might give the perception to the faculty and students that no disciplinary actions were being taken. "We are not at liberty to talk about what happens to anybody. It's a legal obligation and it's also something I just believe we shouldn't do. A lot of times there are people on the outside who want to know what happened about a certain incident.



FEATURE FOCUS

Well, they'll just have to have faith that we know what we're doing," he said.

While 79% of surveyed faculty feel supported by the administration regarding disciplinary actions, there may be a discrepancy between "feeling supported" and seeing this support in action. Results indicate that although they feel supported, 50% of faculty believe that in general, discipline at Acalanes is too lax.

As to the enforcement of school rules, Schmidt agrees that administrators do not always go by the book and that each case should be looked at individually, as opposed to using a rigid application of the rules. For example, he feels the application of handbook disciplinary actions are especially tough when dealing with incidents of verbal harassment.

"Our weakest situation is one where there is one student's word against another student's word with nobody to corroborate. We try to seek outside corroboration but sometimes you get one group trying to support their buddy. Then the corroboration isn't taken as seriously. It's not only the quantity of the corroboration but the quality we look at," Schmidt said. "Harassment is very

hard to judge."

Dr. David Girard, a former education law professor at UC Berkeley, agreed with Schmidt that cases involving verbal harassment can be the toughest to enforce, both in the schools and the courtrooms. He said that schools only need substantial evidence or reasonable suspicion to take action against a student (as opposed to the criminal standards required by the police department in which a person must prove that their civil rights have been violated). Girard also said that a case involving verbal harassment would be "a difficult thing to put into criminal statute. That's not the kind of thing that's usually prosecuted as a crime," he said. However, there are specific harassment laws that apply to schools because the number one priority in schools should be safety, Girard said.

Schmidt also felt that administrators are given flexible "police" powers when it comes to enforcing harassment. "The primary concern of the school, even above education, is safety," he said.

Some teachers and students feel that there may be a little too much flexibility in how the school defines harassment, however. Simon claims he's not even sure what harassment is. "I've been called names and picked on but is that harassment? The school handbook says only 'harassment'. What does that mean?"

Spanish teacher Deborah Maedke also felt some confusion as to what constitutes harassment. "When is teasing okay and when is it not okay? Where does it stop?" she said.

Schmidt agrees that the handbook definition of harassment is vague but argues that a better definition would be hard to come up with. "We all know basically what it is and yet it's hard to come up with a hard definition that just fits," he said. "A hard definition of what is considered...harassment is impossible. There's so many different perpectives."

Despite the unclear definitions as to what exactly harassment is, Schmidt hopes that the students would still feel comfortable coming to the administrators with any problems they might have. "I would hope we aren't discouraging folks to come to us. We want kids, if they have any sort of problem, to come forward. Safety is our number one concern. However, it would be hard to de-

fine everything we consider harassment in the student handbook. If we described everything in the handbook at length, it would be the size of a telephone book," he said.

Schmidt also felt that safety needs to extend beyond those complaining of harassment to those being accused of harassment as well. "We have to figure out if what the person is experiencing is actually harassment or if the person is exaggerating. Often what we do is pull in both sides and have them tell us their stories then compare the stories. We also look at the past history of the students. If one person has a long history of trouble then we tend to look at more than just their story," he said.

"I have never really seen the administrators take action. However, I don't feel the lack of disciplinary action really encourages others to harass people."

-Acalanes Student

SURVEY EXPLANATION

In order to obtain a sampling of opinions and maintain objectivity, Blueprint sent written surveys to 79 faculty members and 121 randomly selected students. Of these numbers, 39 faculty surveys and 56 student surveys were completed. Blueprint was contacted by several faculty members who questioned the intent of this story and in particular the survey. Some individuals felt that the disciplinary actions of administrators and the faculty members' opinions in regard to these should not be shared with the student body.

Although many students and faculty members were reluctant to go on record due to the sensitive nature of this article, a recent AHS graduate agreed to go on record and tell of her alleged struggle with harassment. However, because her last name could potentially be linked with the administrator she dealt with, Blueprint chose to give her the pseudonym Susan.

Schmidt says he "warns" those accused that the administration will be keeping an eye on them in the hope that that will deter them from committing further harassment.

Susan, however, feels actions like these aren't enough. "I would go to the administrators and they would tell me that I should try talking to those people harrassing me and telling them 'you know, this hurts my feelings'. Of course it hurt my feelings! That's why they were doing it," she said.

Maedke feels that the problem is one that needs to be examined closely. According to her, the main problem with discipline at Acalanes comes from inconsistency of enforcement in the classroom. "Rules aren't being enforced by all the teachers. I think it needs to be a joint effort between administrators and staff. If one of those two parts don't back up the other, nothing will get done," she said. "I think there may be more the administrators can do to enforce rules but it will require the support of the fac

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INTERACT SERVICE CLUB

Interact Reaches Out to the Community

By Mina Chang**Staff Writer**

It's finally Saturday, a day most students sleep in until noon, but for the early-birds in the Interact Service Club, it's the day to get up at sunrise and head over to the Richmond Rescue Mission.

"Interact (Club) is a youth movement...supported by the Rotary...with the concept of wanting to get students involved in community service," said principal Keith Schmidt, member of Lafayette Rotary and an advisor of the Interact Club.

On Saturday, November 8, nine Interact Club members gathered at the Richmond shelter and helped to wrap enormous life-sized food barrels to be used in the canned food drive during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Upon arrival at the Richmond shelter, the members were given a thorough tour of the facilities. "The tour helped us get to the heart of the foundation. We saw everything, from Mission's churches and houses as well as the whole food drive process," said Interact president Nicki Bazell. "It was really interesting and also educational because ... (they showed us) how the center is run," said Bazell.

"The entire day was fulfilling for everyone; we felt as if we were giving back to the community. We all had such a blast working together and growing closer, and we're really looking forward to our many upcoming projects," she said.

The motives of joining the club don't stop at meeting people and having fun with the Interact club members. The club hopes to provide chances for students to develop leadership skills while earning required community service hours. The Interact Club has many more valuable incentives than just the community service hours.

"It's a great opportunity to com-



Seniors Kim Bruce and Nicki Bazell visit the Richmond Rescue Mission, where they learn about food collection for the homeless.

bine fun and helping people," said Vanessa Totten, the Interact Chief Executive Officer. "It's more fun if you volunteer for fun, not for the community service requirement," said Totten.

Some of the previous club projects include: Habitat for Humanity, Adopt a Family, California AIDS Foundation, Toys for Tots, Earth Day, Christmas for Everyone, Taylor Family Foundation, and other activities that benefited people who earnestly needed the help.

Bazell said that her main purpose of volunteering in these events is "to help those less fortunate not only in our school and our community, but also the world around us."

"New members are always welcome," she added. "The more people who volunteer, the better. We all are capable of making this a better community."

If anyone is interested in joining the Interact Club, the club meeting information can be found on the Acalanes daily bulletin. Meetings are on every other Tuesday or Thursday.

PIERCING (cont'd)**cont'd from page 9**

In fact, piercings can pose health risks, especially piercing of the mouth, according to Lafayette dentist Michael Sayegh. For example, tongue piercings are highly prone to infection due to the enormous amounts of bacteria in the mouth. "A lot of stores are using cheap metals, such as nickel, and some people are developing allergies to these metals. It sets up a situation where they can't wear jewelry because the immune system has already been invaded," said Sayegh.

While infections usually heal with antibiotics, the risk of unsterilized instruments is serious. Junior Amanda Metcalf experienced "street" piercing when she got a nose stud at age thirteen without parental consent. "I attempted about three (professional) places before I got it done...none of them would let me. So I just went to the streets of Berkeley and got it done for ten dollars. The guy didn't even ask me if I was 18 or not," she said.

A CALANES BLUEPRINT ENTERTAINMENT

Blueprint

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MOVIE FORUM

Bean Not Too Good for the Heart

By Bret Taylor

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Bean (1997, PolyGram)



Bean, Director Mel Smith's take-off of the popular English television show *Mr. Bean*, is just a predictable extension of the television show itself. Besides un-

usually frequent utterances from Mr. Bean himself (on the television show he rarely speaks a word), the film uses the same formulas and even the same gags, making any audience member who has seen the show almost cry from boredom and annoyance by the end of the film.

The film is set primarily in Los Angeles, where Mr. Bean (Rowan Atkinson) is sent under false pretenses of artistic expertise to deliver the coronation speech for the painting "Whistler's Mother" at a Los Angeles museum. And, as expected, every possible bad choice and dumb gag is made by Mr. Bean, creating chaos and catastrophes everywhere he walks.

These interesting circumstances do create some very memorable scenes, like the scene in which Mr. Bean finds himself with an entire, uncooked turkey on his head in process of cooking his first meal with his American caretaker (Peter MacNicol). Similarly, the audience nearly fell out of their seats when Mr. Bean attempted to eat an M&M he had dropped inside a man's body during surgery.

However, most of the other laughs are strained, coming from repetitive physical comedy and mundane acts of stupidity. Whatever integrity the film establishes in some of its more successful scenes is lost completely when the film reverts to making Mr. Bean trip and fall for a laugh.

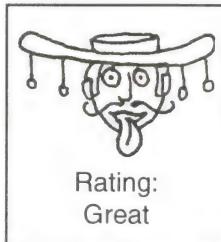


Mr. Bean makes one of his many intriguing facial expressions as he travels to America as "Dr." Bean from a prestigious art gallery in London.

Bean also lacks a point, despite its feeble attempts to instill family values on the audience during the entire last hour of the film. Basically, the movie lacks the depth and sophistication necessary for a good comedy, and better writing could have achieved that.

Blast from the Past

Animal House (1978, Universal)



Rating:
Great

The recent comedies out of Hollywood all use the same, redundant formula: lots of disgusting, in-your-face jokes recycled continuously until the ending credits. I got physically ill when Mr. Bean turned on a television by shooting an M&M from his nose. Similarly, I was close to leaving the movie theater this

summer when Kevin Kline started dancing to disco music in *In and Out*. But right when I started to despise comedy and the slapstick genre altogether, I remembered the movie that started it all: *Animal House*.

Combining profanity, one-liners, and nudity, *Animal House* is possibly the most repulsive movie ever made—and probably the funniest, too. Surpassing the shallow monotony of more recent comedies, it manages to confront racism, social elitism, and sexism, all intertwined in a hilarious Freudian theme. I could not help but giggle when John Belushi smashed the guitar of a overly-sentimental hippie; I even found myself cheering him on.

You might be asking what distinguishes this lewd humor from the lewd humor I have been barraging with insults. Well, the answer is simple: the comedy has a point and is original, although Hollywood has tried endlessly to imitate it. Unfortunately, Hollywood has not even come close.

Courtesy Photo

PHOTOGRAPHY PHOCUS

Photographers! Hey Hotshot! Blueprint wants to print your killer pictures. We are looking for high-impact photos of sports, campus life, interesting or newsworthy activities and artistic shots.

Please submit prints and/or negative to Mr. Freeman or the Blueprint editors-in-chief in room 209 or Ms. Wood in the photography room. If your photo is selected, Blueprint will publish it and write whatever news or description your photo requires. Blueprint will print your name and/or mugshot with the photo if requested. Requests for anonymity will also be respected.

Hot Shots



Student Photographer Tiffany Chin, Photography 2

Hot Shots Photographer Tiffany Chin took this picture of Albert Kim, Justin Ahn, and Julius Ho on a Pacific Rim Club field trip.

ROLLING STONES

The Stones Roll to a Different Beat

By Chris Kinney

Staff Writer

"Hello Oakland!"

At 8:30, Pearl Jam walked off and the crowd's anticipation grew. The Stones let it grow for 45 minutes, and then the stadium went dark.

A galaxy appeared. A comet started to move into view, and as the screen's edges shot forth a burst of flames, the crowd got an instant dose of "Satisfaction".

Whipped into a frenzy, the crowd began dancing in the aisles and singing along at the top of their lungs.

Mick introduced the back up singers and instrumentalists, then introduced Charlie Watts (who got the longest cheer from the fans), Ron Wood and Keith Richards.

After a few more of their songs, including "Anybody Seen My Baby" and "Flip the Switch", which are from the new album, the stage went dark. An arched walkway began extending into the crowd and stopped at a little stage in the center of the floor. The lights came on as the Stones came running out onto the small stage, and the walkway retracted, leaving the Stones in the middle of an ocean of fans. "You've got me Rocking" started off their island set.

Back on the main stage the Stones continued playing hits like "Let's spend the night together" and "Honky Tonk Women". As the fans began to tire, the Stones played "Start me Up" to rev the fans back in the mood. Then, the stage lights dimmed, and all along the front of the stage fire was shot up as they began to play "Jumping Jack Flash". The light towers that had been shining the spotlights on the stage began to spew out a storm of glitter and paper shreds that fell onto the crowd as they danced about and sang along excitedly. The Stones wrapped it up with "Brown Sugar" as fireworks started to shoot off as they finished. These were nothing compared to the fireworks that went off as the Stones took their bows. Needless to say, the crowd erupted.

The only two songs that I wanted to hear but they didn't play were "Angie"

and "Get Off Of My Cloud".

Unfortunately, the Stones' new album "Bridges to Babylon", is not nearly as good as their past releases. The album is composed of songs that have the intensity of "Angie", with only one or two songs that are like "Start Me Up". They tried to make this album with an alternative bent, but their talent lies in their fast paced songs. Luckily for their fans, they hardly played any songs from "Bridges" at the concert.

In order to get tickets, Acalanes students who hoped to attend the event had to spend most of October 5th in line. Freshman Adam Grossi said that he had to stand in line for about six hours. In order to prevent people from lining up very early to buy the tickets, Bass has people pick numbers out of a hat. Then Bass draws a number and that is where the line starts. Acalanes Parent Rebecca Vetter said that she had to stand in line for about eight hours because Bass picked a number just after hers, so she had to go to the back of

the line. She ended up with tickets that were on the grass and on the second tier. Even when people finally got to the front of the horrendous line, they had to fork over \$65, plus a \$10 fee from Bass.

As an alternative to standing in line, people could buy tickets from Sprint Phone company if they signed up with Sprint. Sprint bought a portion of all the Rolling Stones concert tickets and sold them to their customers at face value. To get tickets, Vetter signed on with Sprint and switched back to AT&T as soon as she had the tickets.

Those who were too impatient to stand in line or too lazy to change phone companies now have a price to pay for their impatience; tickets from scalpers or agencies cost prices that could put a kid through college.

Best Seats, a ticket agency in Lafayette, had seats, but they charged anywhere from \$150 for nosebleed seats to \$800 for seats in the first ten rows. But hey, good entertainment isn't cheap!

SCHOOL CLIMATE (cont'd)

cont'd from page 13

ulty. You can't have four administrators controlling 1,100 kids."

The teacher referred to as Joan also felt that the administrators were sometimes put in a difficult situation when it came to enforcing school policies. She felt that the administrators may have "other constraints that may bind them. Constraints we, as teachers, may not be aware of."

"I think if we were more aware of things that were going on then we wouldn't feel as impatient," said Joan.

Schmidt also felt that another reason why the students and faculty might think the administrators were not adequately solving the problems of harassment on campus could be because the problems were not always reported to them. "The first thing they have to

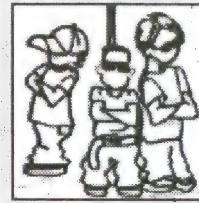
do, obviously, is report the problem. Then we try to take immediate action," he said. The student survey supported Schmidt's statement showing that 93% of kids who say they have suffered from harassment or discrimination never report it to the administrators.

Despite all this, Susan still feels that she was not supported by the school or the community. "What these kids were doing to me... They thought they were a certain way that society approved of. I stood up for myself but I didn't have the support. That's sad because when people are so insecure that they don't value what they have, then they devalue what others have. If those kids had been proud of being white and being male, then they would have had no reason to come down on me."

A CALANES BLUEPRINT OPINION

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ED'S CORNER

Alternative Scheduling Blocks Minds

By Julie Greene

Co-Editor-in-Chief

No one should have their life uprooted and torn apart, all of their schedules and routines swept out the door. Call it change, call it progress but don't call it down here.

For the past two years the administration, faculty, students and parents have been investigating the idea of changing our schedule. They've looked at thousands of different kinds of scheduling. Schedules with two hour classes three times a day, schedules with six one hour classes, rotating schedules, solid schedules and block schedules. Almost every schedule created under the sun has come under the scrutiny of the Alternative Scheduling Committee. And still the search continues to find the possibility of looking into a new schedule.

Well, if it ain't broke don't fix it.

Supposedly an alternative schedule would create a more stress free environment. Athletes would be under less stress when their games conflict with homework. Some how or other the homework load should go down, and the schedule should create a more college like atmosphere.

I have no doubt that it will create a more college like atmosphere, but this isn't college. College, for most of us, is anywhere between one to four years away, so why bring it upon us now? High school is where students develop the habits you need to survive one college year. If you stick college in high school when do you learn the habits? If you count the seconds on the clock

for twice the amount of time everyday, slack off and then stay up all night cursing the word procrastination, how is this supposed to prepare you for college? We have at least a year before we have to worry about all that.

But, an alternative schedule worked well at Drake High School in San Anselmo, and Gunn and Palo Alto High Schools in Palo Alto. True, but the schedule fell flat on its face initially at College Park and then ran into problems at Clayton Valley. The schedules were inconvenient for the parents who had two kids going to school at two different times.

However, the committee has been trying hard to make sure that Acalanes does not go the way of College Park and Clayton Valley. Last year, they called community meetings to discuss it with parents. Teams of parents, students and teachers visited specific schools that have alternative schedules. The committee has even suggested a trial period for a semester or so to test out the schedule and work out all the bugs. It's this kink infestation that really bugs me.

While they are testing out the schedule time will still be flying by. Students will be going to school, earning credits, playing instruments, kicking footballs, and

speaking in many languages. Whatever bugs the school does discover are going to effect all of these people. It isn't just a semester it's half a school year.

Most importantly, what if the administration decides that alternative scheduling really isn't the way to go, then what effect will that have on students. To the administrators it may just be four months. But to the students, it's 1/8 of our high school career.

This whole business is much to shaky to play around with. It isn't a matter of working out the kinks of potentially good systems, it's a matter of playing with America's future future.

SCHOOL SCHEDULE

8:00 - 8:50
8:55 - 9:45
9:45 - 10:00
10:00 - 10:50
10:55 - 11:45



PRO/CON

Should UC make the SATs Optional?

By Jake Zarah

Staff Writer

The University of California system has come a step closer to fulfilling the hopes and dreams of every high school student by considering making the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) optional for admission into college. By making it optional, the UC system would not only make the lives of high school students much better, but it would enable some people to become eligible for the college of their choice, who, because of low SAT scores would normally be turned away.

Taking the SAT's is not the three hour process it appears. It is a process that involves weeks of preparation and studying. By making the test optional, a major burden would be lifted off the students' backs. Most juniors and seniors already have more than enough work on their hands as it is, and the SAT's just add on to this tremendous load.

Waking up early on a Saturday morning is not the only thing that is wrong with the SAT's. The test is designed to test a student's intelligence, but it doesn't always do that. For example, a person may excel at school, but the pressure to do well on the test may cause the student to crack, and do poorly on the exam. Since colleges stress the need to do well on this test, the student may not get into as good of a college as he or she deserves.

Another problem with the SAT is the material that it covers. The verbal section tries to confuse the student with big words that no one knows the meaning of. When in your life will you ever use the word "opprobrious"?

Should the SAT be made optional, admission to certain UC's would be opened up to many more people. Students who would not have gotten into the college of their choice could have a better chance getting into that college. Also, this would force the UC system to look more thoroughly at a student's achievements, such as extracurricular activities or awards received.

Also, the topic of Affirmative Action comes up with the mention of making the SAT's optional. Many minorities who can not afford the expensive preparatory SAT courses would have a better chance of getting into the college of their choice. Affirmative Action may become less of an issue because more people would become eligible for admission. With the increase in eligibility, many minority groups may become more represented in better universities.

By considering making the test optional, the UC system may be paving the way for universities all over the nation. Since the SAT's do not fully measure a student's intelligence, it is not fair to base admission by performance on this test. Many prestigious universities, such as St. John's and Bates College, have already made the SAT's optional.

The UC system is not proposing to completely eliminate the SAT's, but only make them optional. But please don't let this stop you. If you like pulling your hair out and going crazy, then be my guest and take the test.

By Sara Eckholm

Staff Writer

The UC system better think twice before it throws out the old Scholastic Aptitude Test. Although the SAT's are indeed a royal pain, they have been a satisfactory method of assessing students' knowledge for over 40 years. To throw out a fine-tuned system that allows UC applicants to show off their brain power would be ridiculous.

If the UC's made SAT's optional, it does not take a genius to realize that only those students who have very high scores would choose to submit them. What does this say about two students who have the same GPA, but one did not submit an SAT score? Maybe it means that he or she has a lot of A's, but really doesn't know anything.

If the point is to make things more fair by basing admission on GPA's alone, then let's require all teachers across the nation to teach, score, and grade the same way, as well. Of course then I wouldn't be able to complain when my best friend pulled off an easy "A" in biology, while I was struggling to stay above a "C" just next door.

A grade point average says less about how much you know, and more about how hard your classes were, or how hard you tried. A 4.00 GPA doesn't mean a thing if you cannot add 2+2.

With Affirmative Action no longer in place, minority admittance may drop in the UC system. This is one of the main reasons that is given for why the SAT should be optional. The argument is that some minorities typically score lower on the standardized test, giving whites and Asians an advantage to get into college. California voters chose to ban Affirmative Action from our UC schools, making the SAT's optional is just a way that the UC's are trying to get around this barrier. The point of ridding the UC application of race was to make everyone equal based on academic merit and test scores alone. To make testing optional would defeat the purpose of the law.

Those that argue that they are not good at test taking, or that they just get really nervous should think about the pressure they will be under when their grades are the sole factors in deciding acceptance to the UC of their choice. They should also remember that, unlike grades, SAT's can be repeated and there are many opportunities for improving scores. However, the SAT is one of the few national tests that most college-bound students take. It is the only way of leveling the ball field of inflated grades.

The SAT is not only useful to colleges, but also to the students who take it. It gives students an honest scale to judge where they stand. This can help students in determining where they want to go or what majors might interest them. In many cases it guides students to areas where improvements can be made.

PRESSURE

The Intense Pressure of Adolescence

By Chris Vetek

Staff Writer

Pressure is everywhere. It sprouts up daily at home, at school, and in our own minds. We feel especially pressured at school, where many of our lives revolve around college. If I do Mock Trial, will I get into a better college? I think I'll take four A.P. classes, and I'll do Mock Trial, Peer Tutoring, Academic Decathlon, three sports, hold a job, and get straight A's this year. Oh yeah, plus I'll take SAT preparation classes twice a month. Now I'll get into a good college! Maybe, but I'm forgetting the fact that I'm still in high school, that four-year span in which we're supposedly developing academic and social skills, and having fun as well. We're not going to be teenagers forever, you know, and the ratio between work and play will

only increase as we move on from high school.

Why do we do it to ourselves? A few students are controlled by their parents, at least to a degree. These parents want their children to be the best and the smartest among their peers, and the students are merely pawns in their parents' agenda, unfortunately.

Most students control their own academic life, however. They take on this killer schedule mainly because of the college factor. What if your plan works and you get into a good college, lets say Princeton? After Princeton you move into a high paying job, you buy a big house, a nice Mercedes, and you start a family. Your job takes up your full time, however, giving you no time for vacations, your family, or yourself, and you don't even like your job. You are rich, however. Is this the future you want?

We need to step back for a moment and look at the bigger picture. The key word is balance. How do we achieve balance? Some of us should learn how to say no, for starters. Opportunities to help out as volunteers or to join clubs surround us, and it's easy to indulge ourselves in them.

Sleep, unfortunately, is important as well. There is nothing so important in this haven of school and stress that we should waste away until 3:00 AM every morning.

I'm not saying we shouldn't challenge ourselves in high school, or that we shouldn't care about SAT's, good grades, or getting into college. These are all important, but they're not so important that we need to sacrifice our social lives and overall health for them.

WICKHAM'S WIT

Easy, Breezy, Beautiful; Naturally You

By Teressa Wickham

Staff Writer

In one way or another, everyone wears some sort of make-up— something added, artificial even, to give that more natural look without looking unnatural.

Get it? Each person, be it male or female, wears some sort of coloring that they think makes them look better or enhances his or her physical outlook. Everyone's guilty of it at least once in a life time. Whether it be chapstick that glosses a guy's crusted lips with a hint of shine, or Bonne Bell that covers up the maddening curl of a malicious, alder sneer, we all give into the pressure.

Some macho football fellas wear make-up under their eyes for football games. You know, those black streaks under their eyes that they call "war paint." Oh. I mean to reduce the glare of those harsh night lights. And some female athletes wear lipstick, or in case they don't get red enough cheeks from their activities, a brushed "powder" during their game. You know; just add blush to your blush. And all the rest have their own reasons, like dressing up for dates

or for hiding that slowly, relentlessly redening, zit that suddenly surfaced on your face this morning, just before the night of that first day of drama try-outs.

Yet, while both genders do it, the girls are the real sly experts about having an entire make over without looking like they've put any make-up on at all. It's simple because: if people know that you're wearing make-up, it takes away the entire plan of going out of your way to use artificial elements to look spectacularly natural. If this sounds confusing, that's only because it is.

Out of the labs and onto the sales racks comes what everybody has been waiting for: natural make-up. Utterly "artificial" make-up that makes you look more "natural" and enhances that natural appearance, in an unnatural way, to make you look less like the real you, while giving the impression that the unreal you is the real thing.

And the great thing about it all? No one can tell that you're wearing make-up. One spends a bundle of money on looking more natural, but it never occurs to one that maybe the real natural is you. Peculiar, isn't it?

Not the unnatural them they buy and gloss around with to look less like their real selves, in hopes of making people think that the real person they don't see is the unreal you they want you to see. See? No you don't! That's the game plan.

Try walking into a Norstroms, Macys, or a Saks 5th Avenue, and having a complete make-over. There's something supernatural about the people whose livelihood is to convince girls how to look so unnaturally natural. They sit you down and brush, blot, and dab all of this natural beauty make-up on you to bring out the real you. So you can get some if you're feeling Nude, or Bare, or if you want to be Babalicious, or even if you want to smell like a Cafe Latte. Of course there's always "ultra soft with microtheres that glides on for a no make-up feel." like the ad says. Maybe you could feel more Naturalistic.

We forget that if we keep using all the unnatural natural beauty make-up, and if we ever get caught without it...

Hey, now there's the downside: It's all just a Cover, Girl.

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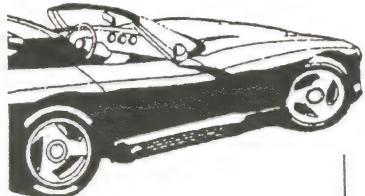
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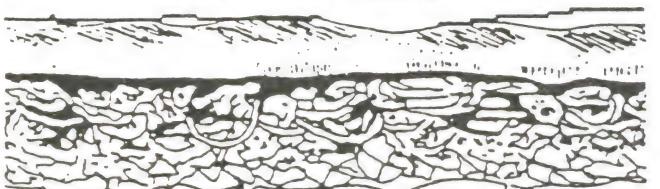
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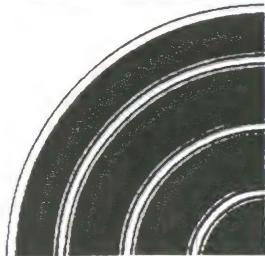
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CHAT WITH CHUCK

Milk Spoils Senior Fun on Junior Deck

By Charlie Eaton**Staff Writer**

"We're taking over the Junior Deck," junior voices echoed down the 100's hall, my peaceful lunch time home, three weeks ago.

"Sure," I scoffed sarcastically, picturing some scrawny junior sporting a "Rage Against the Machine" shirt and trying to push a huge senior from the deck much like wee Iraq trying to toss the mighty US from its borders.

A person unfamiliar with the inner workings of Acalanes might wonder why the Juniors didn't already occupy the deck that bears their own name. So eschew obfuscation, let it be known that it is a tradition for Seniors to pass the lunch hour on the Junior Deck. Seniors have done so for so long that the act is not even questioned. Hence, it seemed impossible that I, a mere Junior, might eat lunch on the Junior Deck.

But when I approached the deck to see what all the commotion was about, I was astounded to see the ominous crew of seniors belligerently abandoning the precious collection of nails and boards like Saddam leaving behind a chemical weapon labs.

"But how?" I wondered. It appeared we had a secret weapon: Mr. Paul Mack. Mr. Mack stood, waving seniors off the deck with the same confidence and authority that forces every rebellious Acalanes student to fear him whether they're drinking at school, flinging a milk, or merely yelling (Mr. Mack vows to suspend any student guilty of this threat to the peace and quiet of Acalanes). Mr. Mack might not be a cruise missile chock full of Anthrax, but the man got the job done.

I asked what the deck's former inhabitants had done to deserve banishment. Apparently, they had flung one too many milks like off-course scuds and heckled one too many lunch ladies. "A tragedy," I thought as I joined the boisterous juniors on the deck.

But still, I wondered, "Is this really happening?" Sure, the Seniors have a whole other deck with picnic tables, and a barbecue. But Juniors eating lunch on the Junior Deck? Mr. Schmidt, you must be kidding.

And the following day it turned out Mr. Schmidt had been kidding. Using the closest thing Acalanes has to the U-2 spy plane (a few faculty members armed with walk-

ie-talkies), administrators determined that the residing flock of juniors was simply too good a target for incoming cartons of milk.

I can hear Mr. Mack's voice cackling through the talkie, "10-4 Schmidt-dog, we got two incoming bogies, looks like 2%, maybe whole milk."

To be sure, the administrators claimed we had yelled too many rude comments from our perch atop the deck's benches. But let's not kid ourselves Mr. Schmidt, it's not the deck that makes students yell just like it's not Saddam who makes Iraqis chant "down with America."

Nevertheless, Mr. Schmidt promises he'll stand in front of the deck with an Administration Security Council Resolve in his hand and his arms folded across his proud chest, daring students to violate the deck by sitting on it. Any student, junior or senior, who violates the no-sit zone will face the stiff penalty of suspension. And after two weeks, the administration will reconvene and form a committee to determine whether or not to allow students on the deck.

Until then the deck will serve about as much purpose as Dan Quayle in the Oval Office. But when students are allowed back onto the deck Acalanes will surely return to its old peaceful self. And if not, well, we'll take the deck away again. But why stop

there? With the millions promised by Measure A, we can build several decks that students can't sit on and waste more man power to prevent students from using them. Perhaps we could share this educational innovation with Miramonte, Campolindo, and Las Lomas. Well, maybe not Las Lomas.

Anyway, I was back to my religious homeland, the 100's hall. Located right in-between the Junior and Senior Decks, it's like a big bull's eye for flying milk and fruit from our elders. But when my comrades and I get to play tyrant next year, I doubt our sight will fall on that big bull's eye next door. And certainly, we wouldn't let loose a cold milky one in the direction of the hall's new residents.

And that's why milkings, hazings, and homecoming disasters will continue perpetually. The administration can't erase the problem by containing or terminating the trouble makers as the UN might contain or terminate Saddam. Every year, there's a new crowd of Seniors projecting anything that flies towards a new group of bitter, self-righteous Juniors. And by the time Mr. Schmidt is sure that he's got the terrorists pinned down, Surprise! it's graduation time.

And while Mr. Schmidt smiles and hands diplomas to the insurgents, a Junior class begins mobilizing for next year's struggle.



Blueprint Illustration/Tiffany Chin

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FOOTBALL

Mud Bowl

By Ben Conley

Sports Editor

It was Mud Bowl '97 as the Acalanes Don's football team won its final game of the season, beating the Dublin Gaels 13-0 finishing with their first winning record since 1989 when A's won the world series. After four hard years in the program the Seniors celebrated their winning season with head coach Pat Smith by slip-'n-sliding their way through the mud at the fifty yard line. Such a big celebration for a 6-4 record shows how much the six wins meant to the team.

The Dons defense had much to do with the win as they stopped The Gaels three times in Acalanes's red zone. The poor conditions didn't allow for too many touchdowns however. "It was hard to throw the ball and cut back and forth so we had to run a lot of straight routes," said quarterback Dave Iverson.

After an injury to Dublin's running back, the Gaels were forced to go to the air and had some success as Dublin's quarterback connected on 16 of 25 passes for 209 yards. However they couldn't get the yards when it counted.

The Dons had problems moving the ball but scored on big plays from their bag of tricks. Junior quarterback Dave Iverson hit senior tight end Ali Katoozian on a screen pass for 37 yards and a touchdown. Katoozian scored his first touchdown of the year for Acalanes.

In the third quarter the Dons ran a flea-flicker with junior Jordan Engledinger taking the handoff from Iverson and finding fellow junior Rob Meimbress deep for a 47 yard touchdown pass. "We always practice that at the end of practice and this was the first time it's worked all season so we were happy it paid off," said Iverson.

INSIDE



Girls Waterpolo
Sinks in Second
Round of NCS
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THE RAIDERS AT A GLANCE

It's Taps for Bugle

By Ben Conley

Sports Editor

The Silver and Black are Lack. You name it, they lack it; defense, offense, a line (on either side of the ball), special teams, fans, a good owner, a good coach, wins, respect and even the loyalty of previous diehard Raider fans. To be quite honest they should make like ducks and fly back down south to L.A. while the weather here in the East Bay is still cold.

Let's face it, the comeback to Oaktown has definitely not been the fireworks blasting, parade marching, barbeques-a-burning kind of party the Raiders were hoping for. The fireworks fizzled, the parade was rained on and the barbeques have nothing but burnt Oscar Meyer weiners on them.

It did look promising when the Raiders went 8-2 after moving to the East Bay last year. They also beat the Broncos this season, the best team in the AFC. Plus they just defeated the unelectrifying San Diego Chargers. However, the Silver and Slack of late are 4-7 having lost 22 of their last 33, and their fans are second-guessing their change of address and change of coach.

With coach Joe Bugel at the helm, all responsibility lies in his hands. Right now it seems like it has spilled into his lap. With all the offensive talent (Napolean Kaufman, Jeff George, Tim Brown), at his disposal, compared with the Raiders poor record proves he must be doing something wrong.

After blowing a 10-0 lead and losing 13-10 to the lowly Saints, there's no doubt that the Raiders are back, and badder than ever, literally. Playing in front of the smallest crowd the Coliseum has seen in 29 years (so much for Personal Seat License plan), supposedly potent

running back Napolean Kaufman managed to gain 14 yards on 15 carries. Being a professional, that's hard to do. As for the air attack, quarterback Jeff George might as well be throwing through pea soup. He completed only 17 of 39 passes. Jeez, could the Raiders be as bad as say...the Warriors?

I sure hope not, but having the god like 49ers just a bridge away, who cares?

Against Carolina, who pounded them 38-14, they did everything except play offense, play defense and play special teams. Don't play that again, Sam.

The "Silver and Bad" defense allowed a third string, undrafted rookie named Fred Lane to run for 147 yards and three touchdowns which both set team records. Did I mention he had one leg?

Kaufman again had another personal high of 16 yards on 10 carries. The Raider's special teams had an even better day, dressing up as ghosts for a post Halloween party, they allowed Carolina punt returners to run right through them for nearly 32 yards per return.

All kidding aside, they only lost to the Seahawks by nine. Lets give them some credit there; they only gave up 554 yards of offense...

In their first game against San Diego (they still have a team?) the Raiders were dumped like the Friday morning garbage 25-10. Superstar Tim Brown joined in the fun that game. Looking like he was trying to catch salmon with lubricated gloves, Brown had three only catches.

They did come close to 400 yards of offense... allowed, 398 to be exact.

So here the Raiders stand at 3-7. So maybe they had a bad season, but if it happens again you can bet Raider watchers will be personally ordering the team U-haul vans.

BOYS WATERPOLO

Dons Place Second in NCS Playoffs

By Teressa Wickham

Staff Writer

After breezing through the first two rounds and the semifinals, the Dons came out storming in the Championship game but eventually succumbed to relentless pressure from Miramonte the defending North Coast champions. The Matadors defended their crown defeating Acalanes 17-9.

All of the excitement of the game took place in the first half as Miramonte's first four goals were answered by the Dons. However, Miramonte's Peter Conte scored a goal with less than two minutes left in the first half to put the Matadors up by two. The Mat's Chris Lathrop added to the lead with a goal putting Miramonte ahead 7-4. It looked as if the green-machine was churning away for another commanding victory but senior driver Bradon Sterne launched a laser with 15 seconds left that boomed off the Miramonte goalie for a goal. The Dons were only down 7-5 going into the half.

Acalanes picked up right where they left off in the third quarter with hole set Rich Andron beating two Miramonte defenders with a backhand shot closing the score to 7-6.

However, Miramonte's deep bench came into effect as Miramonte was able to pour on the pressure against the tiring Don's starters who had been in practically the whole game. Miramonte's Andrew Stoddard proceeded to take over the game with amazing goals that deflated any chance of a comeback for the Dons. The Mat's built up an 11-7 in the third quarter and added six goals in the fourth to slay the pesky Dons. "We were with them for the first half. During the second half they just blew us away, they out-scored us and did what it took to beat us," said senior Morgan Wagner. Senior goalie Ethan Berger had another great game against Mira-



Senior goalie Ethan Berger rises up to block a shot in the Don's one-sided 16-5 victory over Sir Francis Drake.

monte saving 8 shots.

Sterne lit up the Matador goalie with three goals from long range as Andron had three of his own. Senior Brad Deal pitched in with two goals as senior driver Ben Conley added one.

The Dons reached the finals easily defeating their first three opponents by a total score of 53-16. In a 20-3 first round win against James Logan, sophomore Conor Deal lead the Dons with 3 goals. Twelve Dons scored in the one-sided victory. In their second round game the Dons punished seventh seeded Sir Francis Drake 16-5. Senior Matt Struempf scored 5 times for the Dons as Andron, Conley, Wagner and senior Tony Forte each scored twice.

Although they came in second in the North Coast playoffs the Dons hadn't even reached the finals since 1991.

"We had a great season, we worked really hard and we came a

long way from where we were last year and from where we were at the begining of the season, we progressed a lot," said Andron.

Much of the Dons success can be attributed to head coach Brian Monty who is in only his third year as head coach. "Brian is great, his knowledge of the game really helped a lot because he taught us what we needed to know to win and do well. We couldn't have done as well as we did without him as our coach," said Andron.

During the Tri-County Athletic League Tournament, Acalanes rose above the waves and were victorious in both of their first and second round games. However, as the TCAL tournament came to an end, Acalanes's fate rested on the final day in the championship game against defending champion Miramonte. Acalanes once again suffocated under Miramonte's gigantic strength.

continued on page 26

CROSS-COUNTRY

Cross Country Finishes Fourth in TCAL

By Dan Chamberlain

Staff Writer

Expectations were high for the Dons going into the TCAL League Meet on Friday November 7, but both the boys and girls teams, who expected to finish in the top three, finished fourth. The TCAL title for both boys and girls was claimed by Campolindo.

Leading the pack as usual for the Dons was junior Chris Vetek who took eighth overall with a career best time of 17:10 for the 3.1 mile course. Vetek also received First Team All League honors for his outstanding performance this year. Vetek was followed by senior Andy Fitzgerell who passed three other runners in the last 400 yards to take nineteenth, with a time of 17:51. Fitzgerell also received All League honors, earning a spot on the Second Team. Filling the other three scoring spots were sophomore Darryl Wong (26th, 18:00), sophomore Taylor Arnold (27th, 18:02), and senior Justin Casha (36th, 18:37).

Ahead of all the other Lady Dons was sophomore Nikala Prowznik who finished fifteenth overall with a personal best time of 20:20. Prowznik was rewarded for her exemplary work this year with a spot on the Second All League Team. Prowznik was followed by junior Amy Judy who placed twenty-first with a personal best time of 20:58. Completing the top five for the Dons, were junior Petra Kohler (22nd, 21:09), senior Erin Gillen (24th, 21:18), and sophomore Sarah Hearey (27th, 21:33).

The Dons are now preparing for the North Coast Section Championship Meet on Saturday, November 22. The girls are currently ranked third for North Coast, just behind Santa Rosa and Clayton Valley. "If we get third we will have finished in the top three in Division One three years in a row, and that is incredible," said coach Manny Myers. As for the boys, Vetek has a good chance of reaching the State Championship Meet this year. "The boys should have a better finish as a team this year, than last year," said Myers.



Junior Petra Kohler races ahead of a Las Lomas harrier to capture 22nd place and pull the Dons into fourth place overall in the TCAL League.

Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer

AN INSIDER'S LOOK

Conquering Mt. Sac

By Chris Vetek

Staff Writer

"Mt. SAC: The Biggest Cross Country Meet in the United States." Greeted by this sign, our cross country team was shocked by the level of intensity in which we were about to compete.

The Acalanes Cross Country Team ventured to Los Angeles to compete in the Mt. San Antonio Classic on Thursday, October 24, and it left with the girls varsity and junior varsity first place wins, while the guys varsity captured fifth place.

The intensity we felt was immediate, as over 500 team buses filled the parking lot. Eighty races would be run between Friday at noon and Saturday at 4:00 PM, and an average of thirty-four teams competed in each of those races.

We set up camp among hundreds of teams sprawled out over the designated field, and set out to walk the

dry, dusty, and hilly course in the miserable morning mugginess of Los Angeles.

The previous night, we had foolishly stayed up for hours, watching HBO and Cinemax, and swimming in the tropical paradise spa within the Embassy Suites Hotel. This knowledge made us even more weary of our possible race outcomes as we drudged up seemingly endless hills.

Boys varsity was the first race. 150 runners surrounded us, and seemingly thousands of spectators lined the "grass valley" first mile, a flat, treeless plateau. As we streaked into the second mile "hill zone", I caught sight of our rabbit coach, Darrin, who shows up around every turn and at the top of every hill.

We finished, as did the other racers, along a thin ditch path, our team etching itself into Mt. Sac history.

INSIDE WATERPOLO

Waterpolo: Not Just Guys in Speedos

Star Goalie Ethan Berger Gives Firsthand View of Grueling Sport

By Teressa Wickham

Staff Writer

Fifteen foot waves slamming down onto the beach to pummel any creature upon it...these are the sounds of a boys waterpolo game. And the brutality of the game is like getting pounded under a gigantic wave only to have your surf board land on top of your head. We can all bet that it hurts. And one man, one man who's able to stand back and watch it all, can explain how gruesome the sport really is.

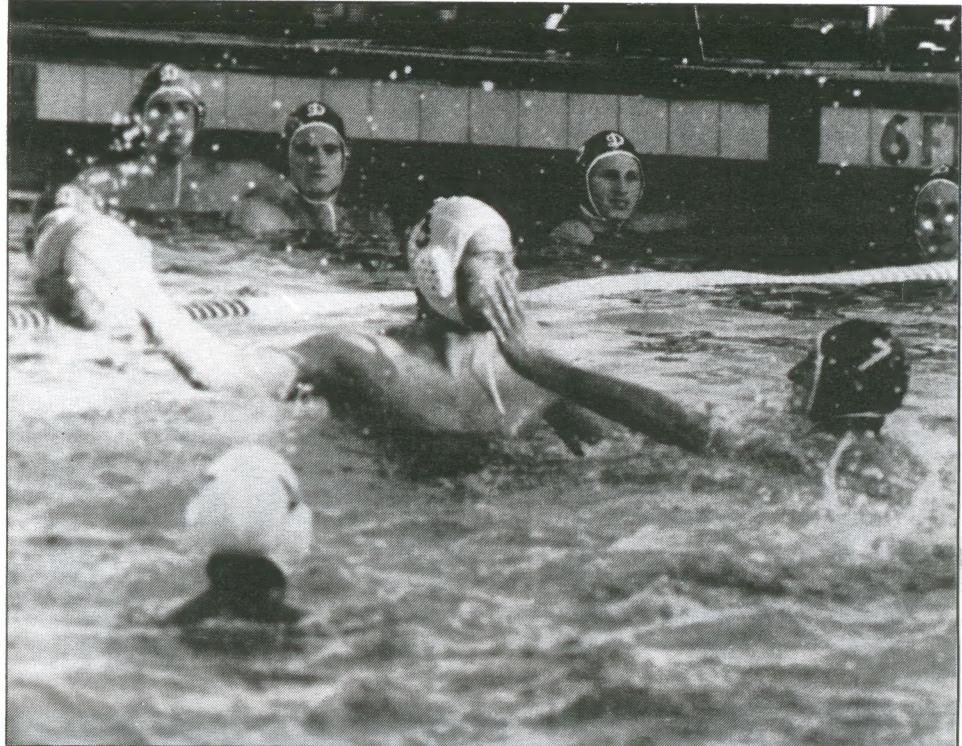
Not being fond of swimming, number one goalie in all of Northern California Ethan Berger took to playing goalie. But this was no easy task to accomplish. "It took a lot of work," recalls Berger.

Berger has been wanting to play water polo ever since his friend's brother began playing it and got him into the sport. Since fifth grade he has been playing summer polo, and for the last three years, he's done year round.

Berger's dedicated.

Going to practice every day, giving up his summer, all summer, and all fall and spring, with only a two month break in the middle of winter is true dedication to the sport. And throughout all of his hard work, Berger's family and friends are there to support him. "My parents have supported me a lot," he commented.

The amount of pressure on goalie is not easy. "It's only you and them. When the defense breaks down, you're the last resort. You're a security blanket for the defense, an anchor, and you have to be the quarterback for the team on the defense." And the hardest part about it all in the eyes of Berger is staying mentally in the game. Having to think for offense and keep your concentration even though you play only half the game. To him, it's not being able to crack under pressure.



Senior hole-set Rich Andron fends off a Sir Francis Drake opponent as he looks for a teammate to pass to.

And, as we all can see, Berger does an excellent job at it.

The rest of the team has it hard too. The boys have to be at school and in the water at 6 a.m., and then after school, the boys are practicing for three hours, ending at 7:30 p.m. Morning practice is used a lot for conditioning, and a lot of swimming is done.

Not too much ball work is done in these early hours. But afternoon practice is where they do the studious things like working on plays, passing, and techniques. Basically everything that involves more concentration.

"A lot of people don't understand how hard it is. A lot of people don't really know the game too well. It doesn't get a lot of respect in a lot of places. But if people played it they'd find that it's actually really hard to play," stated our number one goalie Ethan Berger.

WRESTLING

Hand to hand combat. Strength. Will. Heart. Pride. Balance. Precision timing. A sport unique to any other, it requires the aggression of a bear and the grace of a cat. Welcome to wrestling.

With last year's head coach gone, Jim Changaris nobly has taken over the Acalanes wrestling program and is sending out a challenge to anyone who is interested. Having a strong nucleus of returners, the Dons have high hopes. But they need help. The middle weight classes will be superb this year but wrestlers are needed in the higher and lower weight ranks.

"It's a real tough sport but it's the type of sport that will teach you a lot of self discipline, a lot of confidence and it will also help keep you in very, very good condition," said Changaris.

-By Ben Conley

GIRLS WATERPOLO

Dons Sink In Second Round of NCS

By Charlie Eaton

Staff Writer

Carondelet drowned the Acalanes girls water polo squad's hopes for the North Coast Championship by relying on Mary Blumberg and Julia Cesnik to drive a hole through the Dons' sturdy vessel.

Carondelet defeated Acalanes by a comfortable margin of 12-7. Not even Grace Woods, Acalanes' goal keeping prodigy, could halt Carondelet's assault. Cesnik fired 6 past Woods while Blumberg rocketed 5, contributing 11 of Carondelet's 12 goals.

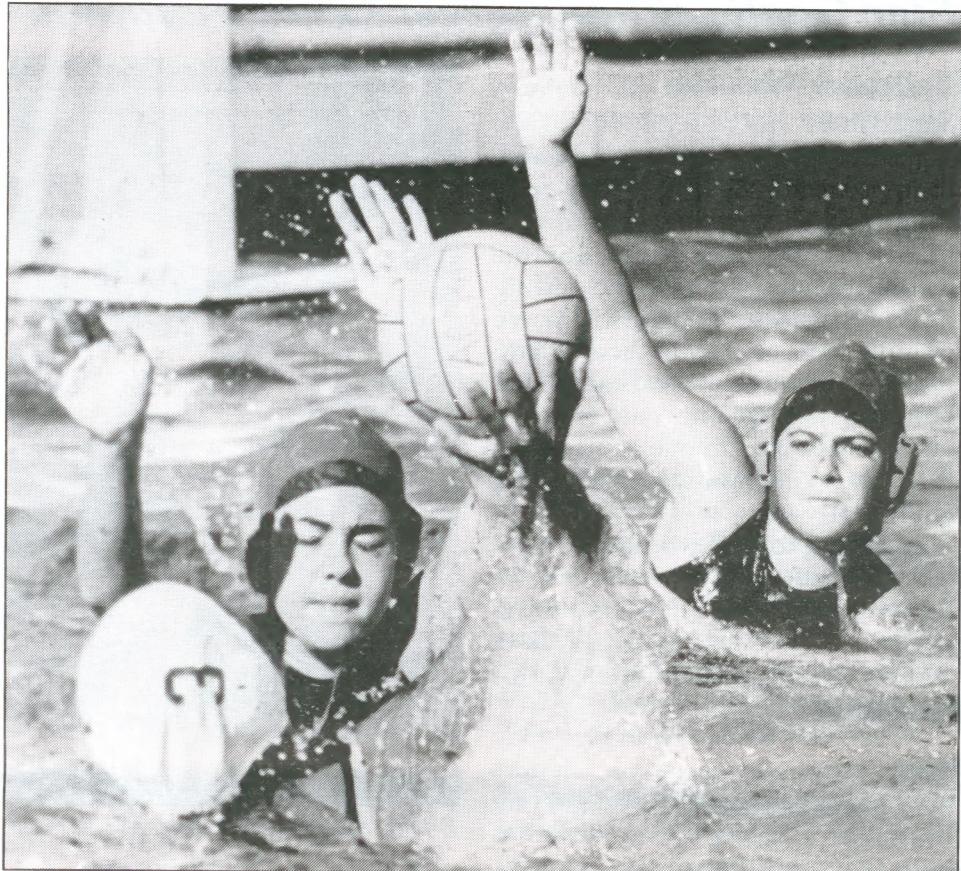
Acalanes emerged from the depths a week earlier and sent a torpedo through Campolindo's hull when senior post Blaire Douglas scored in the final seconds of the TCAL semi-final game for an Acalanes victory and a subsequent North Coast birth.

Douglas and junior post Michelle Migliore worked like clockwork together under a "double post" offense. "We just ran the same plays for that offense over and over until they were second hand to us," said Douglas. Migliore scored five goals, and Douglas followed suit with two.

However, it was Grace Woods who turned the momentum of the game in Acalanes favor by blocking a Campolindo penalty shot, holding the Campolindo lead to one. And that was all the Acalanes squad needed to send Campo to bed. "We were really good in talking, and reading each other's mind, and helping each other," said junior hole defender Heather Stretch.

The victory over Campolindo advanced the team to the TCAL finals against Miramonte. The Dons played strong, but were no match for the Miramonte powerhouse. The Matadors used impressive flurries of technical passing to open up scoring opportunities and took advantage of their fast breaks to show the Dons who's boss by a score of 12-6.

Disheartened by the loss to Miramonte and exhausted by the three day TCAL tournament, the Acalanes squad came out slow in its first NCS Championship game against Bishop O'dowd. "We weren't pumped for it," said Stretch. Nevertheless, the Don's stepped up their play further into the game educating the Bishop O'dowd squad in the art of water polo by a score of 8-2.



Senior Katie McKasey and junior Heather Stretch look to block an outside shot. The Dons finished second in League.

Blueprint Photo/Alexis Weir

BOYS WATERPOLO (cont'd)

cont'd from page 23

Acalanes wiped out during the championship to Miramonte, losing 7-2. Stoddard again held his team in place with four goals of his own. Meanwhile, the Miramonte defense again stopped the Dons by trapping their defense and not allowing them to take many shots on goal. There were only five Don shots on Miramonte's cage.

Although Berger is regarded as one of the best goalies in Northern California, his 17 saves out of 24 Matador shots weren't enough to beat Miramonte. Once again, Miramonte regained its TCAL crown.

During the semifinals, Acalanes went into a double overtime with Campolindo, and managed to win,

14-12. Andron had seven goals, Conley and Struempf each had three, and Sterne scored once. Berger totaled 13 saves, and Acalanes had 32 shots on goal.

During the first round game against Granada, Acalanes played spectacularly, with a win of 19-5. Conley and Deal had two goals a piece, while Andron, and senior drivers Dave Carney and Wagner had one each. Forte and junior driver Joel Corcoran both scored twice, while juniors Ted Livingston, Matt Lynn, Chris Meyer, and Travis Nelson had one. Senior goalie Matt Howekamp had five saves for Acalanes, Berger had three, and junior goalie Dave Peacock had one.

TENNIS

Dons Aced in TCAL Playoffs

By Kent Klinzman

Staff Writer

The women's varsity team ended the season with a record of nine wins and five losses, after losing back to back to the two top teams in the league, Miramonte and Campolindo.

The Dons lost to Miramonte, 2-7. Although the players never gave up against the rampaging Mats, they could not quite come up with the win. In their next game, the Don's also lost to an imposing Campolindo team, who ended up winning the Tri County Athletic League title.

Even after the loss to Campolindo and Miramonte, the team was convinced that they were facing a much improved league from last year's. "Everyone gave it their all and it was a challenging year," said senior captain Esther Leong.

During the TCAL tournament, Acalanes, coming off of two tough losses, played hard but still came up short. They entered with three singles competitors including sophomore Ashley O'Neil, and senior Kim Bruce. The Don's also entered three doubles pairs into the competition, seniors Beia Spiller and Robin Zeman, Kim Bruce and Esther Leong, and Brianne Byrne and Kira Smith. Un-

fortunately, Acalanes was turned away from the start, losing one singles competition and a doubles match in the first round. Beia Spiller and Robin Zeman lost in the first round in a close, three set match, 2-6, 6-1, and 7-5. Megan Briggs also lost in the first round in a two set match, 6-3, 6-3.

In the next round, Acalanes lost both it's doubles matches and a singles match. The duo of Brianne Byrne and Kira Smith lost to a great team that went on to capture the TCAL doubles championship. Kim Bruce and Esther Leong lost to the same team that defeated Beia Spiller and Robin Zeman in the first round.

Sophomore Ashley O'Neil lost her match in the third round to a player from Miramonte. This ended the season on rather a sad note, as Acalanes had swept the TCAL last year. Although it did seem to leave a sour taste in their mouths, the team will be strong again next year. "Although they will miss the graduating seniors, a lot of the younger junior varsity players show a lot of promise and will hopefully rise to the challenge of replacing the seniors of this year," said junior Megan Briggs.

VOLLEYBALL

Oh yes, the varsity volleyball Dons are going to compete at North Coast for the second year in a row. The last time this occurred players were sporting bell bottoms with flowers in their hair.

The Dons upset Foothill in the fifth game, their second to last league match. Unfortunately they suffered a heart-breaking loss to Granada in their final game of the season. The Matadors stole the final two points in another 5 game match much to the disappointment of the determined Dons.

However, in Tuesday's heart felt North Coast match up against Casa Grande the Dons took the match in four games, 12-15, 15-12, 15-12 and 15-4. "The first game, we got called for too many illegal sets. There were like six or seven

of them. I started telling them, 'you can't face the girl, bump set it.' After we got that out of the way, we were okay," said head coach Jim Changaris. Senior outside hitter Laura Cox had an outstanding night with ten kills, three aces and one dig. Freshman setter and opposite Becky Twohey and sophomore middle blocker Lindsay Cimina also had respectable nights, both having six kills.

The surprise performance of the night, was by senior Jackie Frazier. "She came in, had yet to play front row all year, and she made some incredible saves over there," said Changaris.

The Dons next match is on Thursday November 20, and their opponent is still to be announced.

-By Sara Eckholm

SIDELINES

The Other Sports

By Chris Vetek

Staff Writer

I was looking at the *Contra Costa Times* Sports section on November 7, and I noticed that normal high-school football schedules for that night covered the front section, while that day's T.C.A.L. cross country championship meet received no coverage. Why do newspapers have such a tunnel vision attitude towards high school sports?

Look at the national sports media scene. The Big Three — football, basketball, and baseball — receive most of the attention, with the exception of golf on television. This national obsession has seeped into the high school sports scene as well. Do athletes in the Big Three work harder than lesser known and lesser respected sports athletes? The answer is no.

Swimming, cycling, and running typically take up the back page of sports sections, and generally are only briefly recognized in a paragraph or so. At the same time, they have a three part series on the cover about what NFL players do in the off-season. It is ignorant and neglectful to slight hard working athletes and their sports for the sole reason that they are less glamorous and idolized.

Sports editors need to change their layout to give back-seat sports a front-page feature once in a while. De La Salle football, as good as it is, gets dull and monotone after the same essential story is run for seven days straight.

Give volleyball, cross country, and other sports the coverage they deserve, even if that means placing another exhilarating football, baseball, or basketball story on the back page.

ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE



Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer

Chris Vetek

Cross Country is a hard enough sport as it is. However, being the top runner on a team is totally different challenge. Junior Chris Vetek has taken this challenge in stride being the Acalanes boys Cross Country team's number one runner for this year's TCAL season. For this, Vetek is *Blueprint's* Male Athlete of the Issue. Vetek's career best time of 17:10 on Newhall Park's 5K course at the league championships was good enough for an 8th place finish and a First Team All-League selection. Vetek recorded first place runs against Dublin and Miramonte to help his team to a 3-2 season and a 4th place finish in league. "I trained with him the whole summer and he kept getting better as the year went along," said sophomore Alex Baca.

Blaire Douglas

With a large number of senior leadership leaving last year's girls waterpolo team and a brand new coach entering the picture, leadership was definitely needed for this year's team to succeed. Senior hole set and captain Blaire Douglas stepped into the vacancy and took over. "She was really vocal which brought up our intensity and helped us to stay in the game," said junior Heather Stretch. For this she is *Blueprint's* Female Athlete of the Issue. Leading the Don's to a second place finish in league, Douglas accounted for two goals in the championship loss against Miramonte. Douglas put Acalanes into the finals with a game winning goal with 13 seconds left against rival Campolindo. Douglas scored 6 goals in their two playoff games.



Acalan Courtesy Photo